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under the COVERS

OUR GUIDE TO THE BEST BEDDING BASICS

MAKE SUMMER *magic!*

28 INSPIRING ROOMS

the *new* NEUTRAL *blush pink*

pretty BUDGET BUNKIE

DIY fruit popsicles

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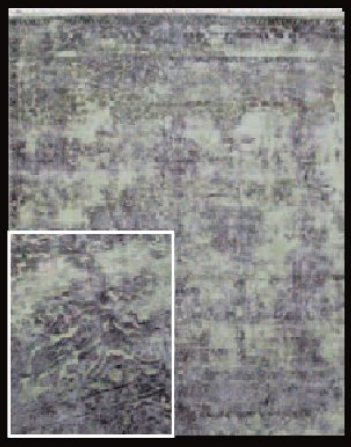

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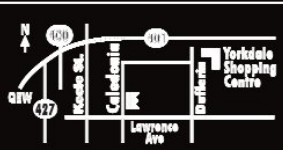

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HOMES

88 THE BRIGHT SIDE
Toronto designer Jo Alcorn puts a stylish stamp on her sunny townhouse

94 HISTORY IN THE MAKING
How a trendy couple created a simple yet sophisticated Hamptons-style retreat

100 THE FAMILY STONE
An Ontario cottage that embraces tradition and family togetherness

COLUMNS

27 STYLE NEWS
The best home decor products, the hottest trends and the most inspiring ideas

32 TRENDSPOTTING
Soft and sophisticated pale pink is a summertime staple

34 HOUSEKEEPING
How to keep duvets fresh

36 STYLE DESTINATION
The ultimate guide to spending a weekend in Ontario's Prince Edward County

40 DESSERT OF THE MONTH
Sugary-sweet malted nectarine yogurt pops

44 DECORATING 101
We take style cues from Jillian Harris's powder room

48 RENO OF THE MONTH
This 1970s condo kitchen gets a bright and modern update

54 HIGH OR LOW
A restful bedroom designed on budgets akin to a power nap and a full night's sleep. Can you tell the difference?

DECORATING

64 TEXTURE TRUMPS ALL
With plush textures, layers upon layers of grey have never looked so inviting

72 LET THERE BE LIGHT
Designer Neil Asselin helps a city couple transform a dark country chapel into a heavenly light-filled retreat

80 SLEEPING BEAUTY
This charming bunkie embraces relaxed summer living with its rustic white-washed interior and cozy furnishings

FOOD

106 IN MINT CONDITION
Pick, crush, inhale and say mmm – this refreshing herb stirs all the senses

REGULARS

FROM OUR EDITOR 16
GET SOCIAL 24
WORKBOOK 112
STYLE BOARD 114

TABLET EDITION
Get *Style at Home* for your iPad, with additional how-to video content, bonus image galleries and more. Download it on the App Store today.

ON THE COVER
Bright accents, wood furnishings and fresh greenery make this B.C. home sparkle **94**

PHOTOGRAPHY
Tracey Ayton

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The old Chevy lumbered along Highway 2, a cloud of dust billowing in its wake. It was the late 1940s and my grandparents were on their way to the building site of their cottage, my eight-year-old dad and seven-year-old uncle slumbering in the back seat. The newly bought property, northeast of Peterborough, Ont., on the cusp of the Canadian Shield, was marked by scrubby pines, red sandy soil and seemingly endless low-lying wild blueberry bushes.

For my working class grandparents, cottaging was a dream they never thought they would realize. It was my savvy grandmother who had heard through her church social circle of a sell-off of waterfront Crown land at a mere 30 cents per square foot. My grandfather built a simple cabin on the plot from mostly recycled materials. As the years passed, the cottage (and the family) slowly grew. Dinner parties were hosted, children were raised, books were read and homemade waterskis were carefully crafted.

As the cottage changed hands through the generations, so too did its decor. The latest iteration was last year. Now in my older sister's hands, it underwent a much-needed makeover that I oversaw to suit her stylish aesthetic. (See what it looks like now in "The Family Stone," page 100.) But it still retains the same quiet qualities. Neither posh nor high tech, it's a peaceful spot for reflection, fun and, most of all, family.

To me, those are the essentials of summer magic: the elements that transcend the material things – slowing down and basking not only in the sun, but also in the warmth of well-loved company. And when, at the end of a long summer's day, you have to go indoors, it's about returning to a comfortable, enduring space you love, that, like all good things, just gets better with age.

Erin

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GENERATION NEXT

WHERE AN EIGHT-YEAR-OLD ME *once read* Misty of Chincoteague *and other horse books on the dock beside my sunbathing mom, my niece and nephew now swim and dive. (At the time of this photo, Marieve and Justin were one and three.) The family cottage legacy has been passed on to the next generation, and I can't wait to see what the future holds.*

PHOTOGRAPHY, STACEY VAN BERKEL; HAIR & MAKEUP, NATALIE BLOUIN/PLUTINO GROUP; JACKET, TED BAKER LONDON

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The stunningly beautiful photos of the courtyard designed by landscape architect Myke Hodgins (page 116) and TV personality Jillian Harris's tips for creating a cozy outdoor space (page 108) in the May 2015 issue were a welcome reminder that you don't have to sacrifice your connection to nature just because you live in an urban environment. With a little ingenuity and the right mix of plants, you can transform a dull outdoor area into a relaxing garden retreat that feels removed from the hustle and bustle of city life.

MICHAEL AARON GALLAGHER, SYRACUSE, NY

FRESH **OUTLOOK**

I was so excited to receive my first issue of *Style at Home* in the mail. The April 2015 cover is bright and beautiful, and the magazine has so many great ideas for spring. My husband and I like to do DIY projects at home, so I'm looking forward to reading about new organizing and decorating ideas each month.

SHAWNNA ANDREW, PORT ELGIN, ON

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The all-new 2015 Chrysler 200 will change the way you look at North American-built sedans. For starters, it's Canada's most affordable mid-size.[1] Its sophisticated aerodynamic design, finely sculpted curves and striking profile only hint at the crafted, premium amenities that await. You'll find comfort and quality in every detail, from available Nappa leather-faced seating and real wood trim to the innovative pass-through console. In fact, this remarkable blend of high-end fit and finish and ingenious engineering has been recognized with the *Ward's* 10 Best Interiors Award. The all-new 2015 Chrysler 200, impressively priced at just $22,495.[2]

10 Ward's Best Interiors

chrysler.ca

[1]Based on 2014 *Ward's* Lower Middle sedan segmentation and MSRP of base models. [2]MSRP for 2015 Chrysler 200 LX excludes freight ($1,695), insurance, registration, taxes, dealer and other fees. MSRP for 2015 Chrysler 200C model shown: $28,695.

style news

PRODUCER MORGAN LINDSAY | **TEXT** MARY LEVITSKI

Water-repellent polyester Naples Market **UMBRELLA** with powder-coated aluminum base, $110, Hudson's Bay, thebay.com.

JULY'S MUST-HAVE: *patriotic parasol*

Sporting Hudson's Bay's iconic multicoloured stripes, this outdoor umbrella is bold, bright and quintessentially Canadian – the perfect patio accessory.

ILLUSTRATION, MICHELLE MORELAN

VOTIVE HOLDERS, from $5 each, Pottery Barn, potterybarn.com.

SIMPLE CENTREPIECE
A collection of votive holders on a tray makes for easy summertime decor.

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

Warm nights and soft candlelight go hand in hand. Group an array of mix-and-match votive holders – from beaded to embossed to tiled – on a decorative tray for a low-maintenance centrepiece with big impact.

NEW ATTRACTION

Repainting your playroom or office? Add a bit of unexpected fun by applying a base coat of this non-toxic magnetized latex primer.

Magnetic Receptive **PRIMER,** $60 US per gallon, MagnaMagic, magnamagic.com.

STRIKE GOLD

You can't go wrong with white and gold, especially when the combination is beautifully showcased in a sleek Mid-Century Modern-inspired pendant light.

Large Greene **PENDANT LIGHT,** $595 US, Jayson Home, jaysonhome.com.

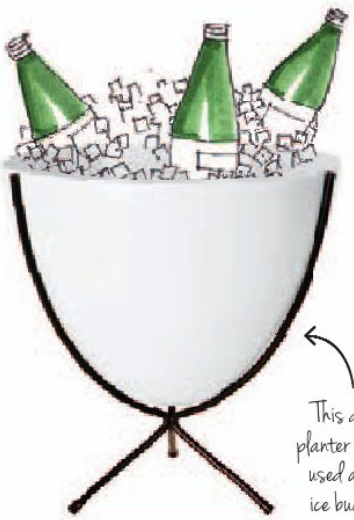
SOW THE SEED

SIX DECADES AFTER IT WAS INTRODUCED, THE BULLET PLANTER (SHOWN BELOW) CONTINUES TO FLY OFF SHELVES, AND ITS INFLUENCE IS ALSO VISIBLE IN A MODERNIZED INCARNATION (SHOWN AT RIGHT).

CONTEMPORARY

This new industrial cement and stone planter sits pretty in an angular base inspired by trendy chevron.

Iris **PLANTER** with stand, from $163, West Elm, westelm.com.



This deep planter can be used as an ice bucket.

CLASSIC

Popularized in the '50s, this planter comprises a smooth fibreglass form in a curve-hugging base.

Short Bullet **PLANTER** in White with stand, $155 US, Design Within Reach, dwr.com.

ILLUSTRATIONS, MICHELLE MORELAN

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UNDER THE COVERS

YOUR GO-TO GUIDE TO BEDDING BASICS

THE BEST DECOR IS MORE THAN JUST SKIN DEEP, SO BED BEAUTIFICATION SHOULD BEGIN WITH THOSE UNSEEN BUT ALL-IMPORTANT BASICS: SOME PLUMP PILLOWS, A DREAMY DUVET AND A WELL-MADE MATTRESS. HERE, WE OFFER A BREAKDOWN OF OUR FAVOURITE PICKS FOR EACH CATEGORY TO HELP YOU CREATE A BED THAT BOASTS BOTH STYLE AND SUBSTANCE.

PILLOW

FAB FAUX *Rivals down with high loft and exceptional bounce.*

I Can't Believe This Isn't Down Micro-Fibre **PILLOW** with polyester fill, Bed Bath & Beyond, bedbathandbeyond.ca.

HYPOALLERGENIC *Anti-microbial polyester helps ward off allergens.*

Style at Home Collection Ultimate Protection Density **PILLOW** with polyester fill, Sears, sears.ca.

HOTEL-WORTHY *This cushy feather and down pillow comes with a protective cover.*

Fairmont Luxury **PILLOW** with feather/down fill, Hudson's Bay, thebay.com.

DUVET

See page 34 for duvet care info.

EASY WASH *A low-cost option that's durable enough to machine wash in hot water.*

Channel-sewn polyester blend Grusblad **DUVET** in Warmer with polyester fill, IKEA, ikea.ca.

ANTI-WIGGLE *Corner ties keep it in place within a duvet cover.*

Distinctly Home baffle-box-sewn cotton SilverClear Microgel Fibre **DUVET** with polyester fill, Hudson's Bay, thebay.com.

TEMPERATURE REGULATING *Cools in summer, heats in winter.*

Brookstone box-sewn cotton Outlast Temperature-Regulating **DUVET** with polyester blend fill, Bed Bath & Beyond, bedbathandbeyond.ca.

MATTRESS

MOBILE *This innovative triple-layer foam option ships to your door rolled up in a compact box.*

MATTRESS with latex and polyurethane foam, Casper, casper.com.

SUPPORTIVE *Offers consistent body-hugging firmness.*

Sealy Optimum Posturepedic Luxuria EuroTop **MATTRESS** with gel memory foam (includes box spring), Sleep Country, sleepcountry.ca.

ECO-FRIENDLY *Handmade in Canada from natural and sustainable materials.*

Serenity **MATTRESS** with 800+ Talalay-latex-clad coils (includes box spring), Elte, elte.com.

PHOTOGRAPHY, JOE KIM/TC MEDIA (STYLE AT HOME PILLOW)

*Prices based on standard/queen size.

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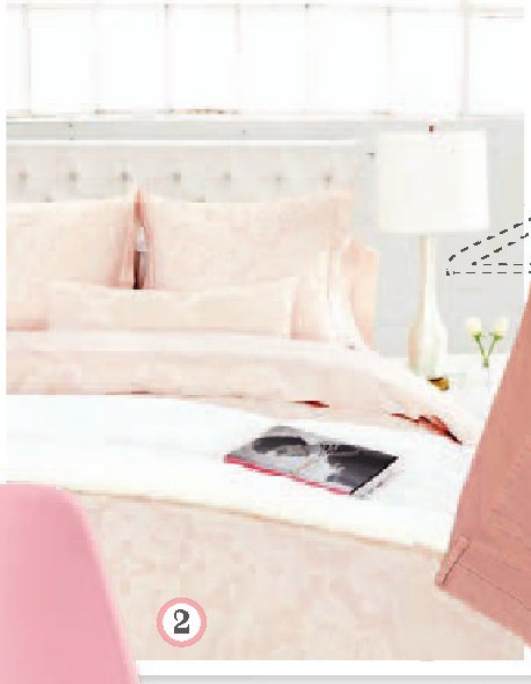
blush

Soft, sweet and sophisticated, pale pink is fresh for summer.

PRODUCER AMANDA ETTY

inspiration

This flirty frock from Ted Baker London is the perfect shade of pale pink.



Luxe sateen jacquard bedding in a soft rose tone offers a whisper of colour in an all-white bedroom.

Use Charlotte Tilbury's Beach Stick for a healthy glow year-round.

A blush sofa with beige undertones is pretty but not overly girly.

1 Eames Molded Plastic **COUNTER STOOL** in Blush, $539 US, Design Within Reach, dwr.com.

2 Sateen Genziana Blush **BEDDING,** from $74 each, Au Lit Fine Linens, aulitfinelinens.com.

3 Kronos Blush **JEANS,** $194, Fidelity, fidelitydenim.com.

4 Rosy-Cheeked **COUPES,** $68 US per set of 2, Bhldn, bhldn.com.

5 Floral **DESSERT PLATE** in Peach, $38, Atelier Make, ateliermake.com.

6 Republic of Fritz Hansen Favn **SOFA** in Light Pink, $13,291, Torp, torpinc.com.

7 Salvatore Ferragamo Varina **FLATS** in Blush, $545, Davids, davids-footwear.com.

8 Charlotte Tilbury Beach Stick **LIP & CHEEK STICK** in Moon Beach, $48, Holt Renfrew, holtrenfrew.com.

DRESS, TED BAKER LONDON, TEDBAKER.COM

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Kashi eat POSITIVE*

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This quality duvet from the Style at Home Collection is available at Sears.

HOW TO

keep duvets fresh

Everything you need to know about duvets and how to maintain them.

PRODUCER MARY LEVITSKI

A duvet is often an investment piece and even infrequent laundering can damage it, so proper maintenance is key. Opt for a duvet cover, which protects better than a flat sheet. Keep the filling evenly distributed and smooth by fluffing the duvet regularly. Also air it out a few times a year by hanging it, sans cover, on a clothesline to preserve its fresh scent. If the duvet and its filling ever get soiled, launder with care. Start by checking the label. If the duvet can handle machine washing, use warm water and mild detergent. Do not wring the duvet before placing it in the dryer on the low setting. Add dryer balls, which prevent clumping, and a few clean, dry towels to speed up the process.

Fill the Gap

NOT SURE WHICH FILLING IS BEST? HERE'S A BREAKDOWN OF THE MOST COMMON MATERIALS.

Down: The most effective insulator, resulting in lightweight options that pack serious heat; pricey and associated with allergies.

Feather: Cost-effective and firm; allergenic, heavy, and larger feathers can poke through fabric, so look for high-threadcount casings.

Synthetic: Typically made of polyester, low cost and non-allergenic; can get bulky and doesn't keep heat as well as natural options.

DID YOU KNOW

Down's fill power (400 to 900) is a measure of how well it insulates. The higher the fill power, the longer lasting, softer and warmer a down duvet.

seasonal rotation

WELL DRESSED

Consider getting separate summer and winter duvets. Dressing your bed in accordance with the season is likely to result in savings on your energy bill. Just be sure to protect off-season duvets from dust by storing them in cotton canvas bags (never plastic ones, which won't allow duvets to breathe and may lead to mildew).

TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE

Attend to spills or stains immediately, before they seep into the filling. Push as much of the filling as you can out of the way before spot-treating the casing with water and mild dishwashing liquid.

DO

Use a large-capacity front-loading washing machine (if need be, go to a laundromat) or hand wash in the bathtub.

DON'T

Use a top loader, which can pack down the filling, or a machine too small to comfortably fit the dry duvet.

handy helpers

Keep this trifecta of duvet care must-haves on hand.

MAINTAIN

Keep your duvet smelling fresh with fabric spray; this one traps allergens, which can then be vacuumed away.

Allergen Reducer **FABRIC REFRESHER SPRAY** in Unscented, $5, Febreze, febreze.com.

WASH

Calming yet powerful lemon essential oil is the star ingredient in this all-natural laundry detergent.

LAUNDRY DETERGENT in Original Lemon, $13, Lemon Aide, lemon-aide.ca.

DRY

Stop the filling from clumping together with these Canadian-made wool dryer balls.

Handmade wool **DRYER BALLS,** $30 per set of 3, Ulat, ulat.ca.

PHOTOGRAPHY, JOE KIM/TC MEDIA (DRYER BALLS)

This little thing
will take you
a THOUSAND
sniffs away.

Gain flings, with 50% more scent than Gain liquid laundry detergent. Now in Tropical Sunrise.

Like any household detergent, keep away from children.

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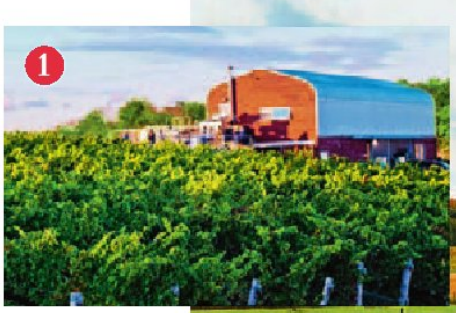

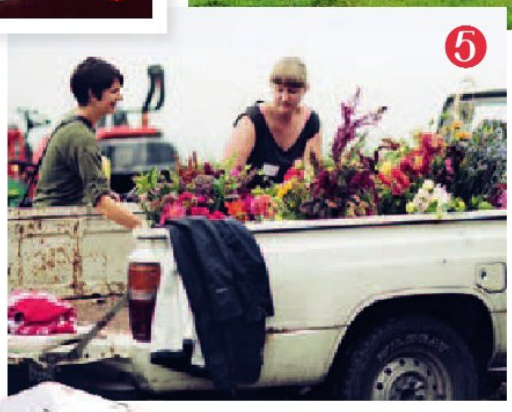

PRODUCER AMANDA ETTY

EDITOR'S ITINERARY:

Prince Edward County

ONTARIO

A breath of fresh air two hours east of Toronto, the County is peppered with small towns and has a laid-back vibe with the bonus of delicious restaurants and wineries and cute shops.

Number of days to spend here

2

Day 1

Check into the **Drake Devonshire (3).** Each of the cozy light-filled rooms in this iron-foundry-turned-hotel has a modern lake house vibe, with eclectic furniture and original artwork. While you're here, dine at the restaurant. I had buttermilk pancakes and a cup of strong coffee for breakfast while blissfully staring at the stunning view of the lake.

After breakfast, cycle or drive along the pastoral back roads that form the self-guided **Taste Trail,** which links restaurants, artisanal food producers, wineries and breweries. My favourite pit stops include **Norman Hardie Winery and Vineyard (1), Slickers** for ice cream and **Grange of Prince Edward.**

If it's after 11 a.m., venture just off the trail to **Hinterland Wine Company** to taste its signature sparkling wine and enjoy a pint at its new brewery, **County Road Beer (2).** For a picnic on the shore of Lake Ontario, stop in at **Rosehall Run** to pick up a bottle of County wine and some wholesome fare, such as salads, sandwiches and cheese and charcuterie, from **Picnic PEC (4),** a food truck operating on the winery's premises.

Spend the late afternoon in Bloomfield. Go antiquing (**Dead People's Stuff** is amazing) and →

PHOTOGRAPHY, ALAMY (FARM), ISTOCKPHOTO (BEER), KAYLA ROCCA (DRAKE DEVONSHIRE), LAURA DART (FLORALORA FLOWERS)

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peruse **Kokito,** a cute store carrying a curated collection of wares inspired by cozy cottage interiors and lakeside living. Shop for new and vintage items with an emphasis on Canadian-designed goods.

For dinner, I especially love **Agrarian (6)** in Bloomfield, which offers homey farm-to-table dishes. If you're visiting on a Saturday, go for a late dinner and stay for the live music at **The Speakeasy** bar, which offers craft beers on tap, cider, wine and cocktails.

Day 2

Start with a latté and a freshly baked muffin from **Tall Poppy Café** (steps away from Drake Devonshire), then head to Picton to visit Toronto's favourite flower girl, Alison Westlake, at **Coriander Girl,** her newly opened shop. If you're in a flowery mood, check out Sas Long's **Floralora Flowers (5)** (by appointment only) or find her blooms at the **Honey Pie Hives and Herbals** farm store. Pick up a posy to brighten up your home or to give to a friend.

If you happen to visit the County in late June or July, don't miss the aromatic lavender fields (pec-lavender.com).

good hydration

▶ Bkr glass **WATER BOTTLE** in Gloss with silicone sleeve, $35, The Detox Market, thedetoxmarket.ca.

perfect straw hat

◀ Panama **HAT** in White, $68, J.Crew, jcrew.com.

stylin' wheels

▼ Public R24 City Road **BIKE** in Cream, $1,050, Cycle Couture, cyclecouture.ca.

Prepare for sunny days spent cycling, picnicking, antiquing and exploring local vineyards and breweries.

what to PACK

comfy sandals

▼ Birkenstock Mayari **SANDALS** in Black, $119, Hudson's Bay, thebay.com.

powerhouse protection

▶ UV Plus HP Day Screen High Protection Emulsion **SUNSCREEN,** $42, Clarins, clarins.ca.

PLAN YOUR OWN TRIP

Drake Devonshire
drakedevonshire.ca

Taste Trail
tastetrail.ca

Norman Hardie Winery and Vineyard
normanhardie.com

Slickers
slickersicecream.com

Grange of Prince Edward
grangeofprince-edward.com

Hinterland Wine Company & County Road Beer
hinterlandwine.com

Rosehall Run
rosehallrun.com

Picnic PEC
picnicpec.com

Dead People's Stuff
deadpeoplesstuff.ca

Kokito
kokito.ca

Agrarian & The Speakeasy
agrarianpec.ca

Tall Poppy Café
tallpoppycafe.ca

Coriander Girl
coriandergirl.com

Floralora Flowers
floraloraflowers.com

Honey Pie Hives and Herbals
honeypie.ca

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malted nectarine yogurt pops

A melty, messy, hot-weather remedy that's simply too good to resist.

RECIPE & FOOD STYLING TANYA ENG

PHOTOGRAPHY JOE KIM

PROP STYLING ANN MARIE FAVOT

A sweltering *July day, bare feet in the grass,* cicadas singing... the whole scene calls for *a treat* that embodies a bit of that *nostalgia.*

WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED WITH

PHOTOGRAPHY, JOE KIM/TC MEDIA

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RUN THE MOULDS UNDER HOT WATER TO LOOSEN THE POPS BEFORE SERVING.

INGREDIENTS

MAKES 10 (⅓ CUP) POPS

- 6 cups peeled and chopped fresh nectarines
- ½ cup granulated sugar
- 1 tbsp freshly squeezed lemon juice
- ¾ cup vanilla yogurt
- ½ cup malted milk drink mix, such as Ovaltine

DIRECTIONS

Place the nectarines, sugar and lemon juice in a large skillet over medium-high heat and cook until the fruit has softened. Remove from the heat and purée the mixture in a blender until smooth. Transfer the purée to a bowl and chill in the refrigerator until completely cooled, about 2 hours.

In a small bowl, stir the yogurt with the malted milk drink mix until combined.

In another small bowl, loosely stir together about 5 tablespoons of the nectarine purée with 1 tablespoon of the yogurt mixture and transfer to a pop mould. Repeat with the remaining purée and yogurt mixture until all the moulds are filled. Insert a Popsicle stick into the centre of each mould. Place the moulds in the freezer and chill until the pops are solid, about 8 hours or overnight. Keep frozen until ready to serve.

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Whipped
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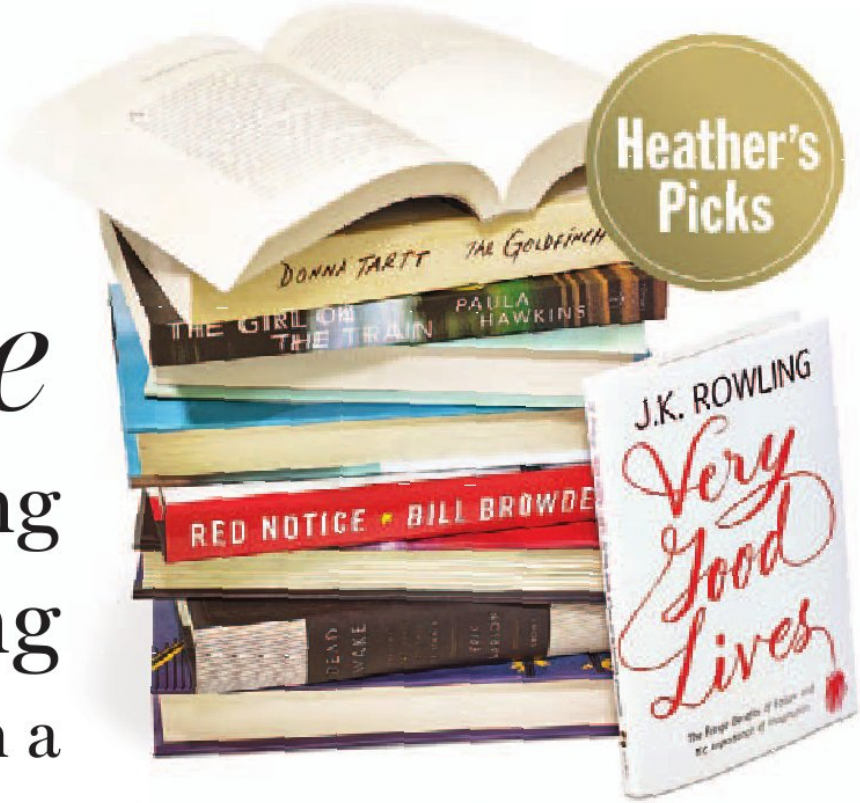
powder room

We peek inside TV personality Jillian Harris's dreamy powder room, taking cues from the space's soft peach hues and fancy fixtures to help you recreate the look at home.

TEXT BRITTANY DEVENYI | **PHOTOGRAPHY** JANIS NICOLAY



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WALL TILES, World Mosaic Tile; **PEDESTAL SINK, FAUCET,** Kohler; **MIRROR, SHELF,** Restoration Hardware; pink **TOWELS,** HomeSense.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

WHEN OUTFITTING A PETITE POWDER ROOM, OPT FOR A PEDESTAL SINK TO MAKE THE SPACE FEEL LARGER AND AIRIER.

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get the look

Pretty Parisian

◀ Cassidy Two Handle Wide Spread **FAUCET** in Chrome with cross handles, $395, Delta Faucet, deltafaucet.ca.

▶ Cotton hammam **BATH TOWELS,** from $20 each, HomeSense, homesense.ca.

◀ Memoirs Classic **PEDESTAL SINK** in White, 24", $668, Kohler, kohler.ca.

Whispering Peach 2014-60 **PAINT,** Benjamin Moore, benjaminmoore.ca.

▲ Un Deux Trois **PRINT,** $50 US, Rifle Paper Co., riflepaperco.com.

▼ Fairfield **MIRROR** in Chrome, $1,440, Ginger's, gingers.com.

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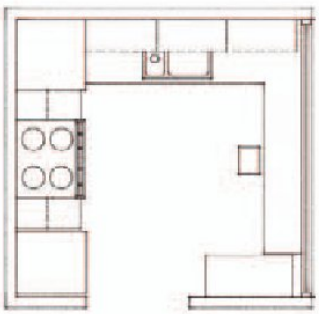
PROBLEM
A dingy 1970s condo kitchen

SOLUTION
Call in a one-stop expert to create a clean-lined space

FLOOR PLAN
81 sq. ft.



bright *idea*

Modern, neutral and light are the hallmarks of this kitchen reno.

TEXT LESLEY YOUNG | **PHOTOGRAPHY** ALEX LUKEY | **STYLING** MORGAN LINDSAY

ABOVE White back-painted glass uppers are an elegant, refined alternative to high-gloss lacquer. "The uppers, while neutral, are definitely the kitchen's focal point," says homeowner Eva Lamb. "Everyone who comes over comments on them." A double sink allows for piling up dishes and prepping food at the same time, says Eva. Cork was chosen for the flooring because it's softer underfoot than tile.

DESIGN, AyA Kitchens & Baths, aya-kitchens.com; **CONTRACTING,** BCM Construction; **CABINETRY, COUNTERTOPS, BACKSPLASH,** Blanco **SINK & FAUCET, CABINETRY HARDWARE,** AyA Kitchens & Baths; Bosch **DISHWASHER,** Appliance Canada; **FLOORING,** Value Wood Floors.

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WHEN IT COMES TO CLEAN THERE'S ONLY ONE **Mr.**

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For more than 10 years, Eva Lamb had her eye on a condo building in midtown Toronto. When the emerging artist finally took the plunge and purchased her prized unit three years ago, she was happy to overlook the 1970s layout and decor to gain ravine, park and city skyline views. Major renovations were in order, and the kitchen was at the top of the list. "I cook and entertain a lot, so I needed it to be very functional," says Eva. She also wanted every item in the space to be beautiful and, above all else, bright yet neutral.

The planning process

"I wanted all the renovations to be done before I moved in, and I knew custom cabinetry could take a long time to make," says Eva. With roughly three months before she took possession, Eva headed straight to AyA Kitchens & Baths and enlisted the help of senior kitchen designer Amy Dillon. Amy drew up a plan based on an inspiration tear sheet Eva had given her of an airy kitchen featuring bleached-wood cabinetry. Since Eva desired a clean, modern look but also wanted to maximize storage, the designer suggested using a condo-sized fridge and dishwasher. A narrow breakfast bar was added to ensure sufficient counter space.

The design decisions

Keeping in mind Eva's kitchen inspiration, Amy started with white uppers. But not just any white uppers: They're back-painted glass, which draws in light from the huge windows and bounces it around the small space. To continue the streamlined aesthetic, Amy suggested flat-panelled barley-stained white oak bottom cabinets and Cambria quartz countertops that flow up the backsplash. Eva focused her efforts on shopping for the perfect appliances, knowing she wanted standout ones: "They're the biggest tools in your kitchen, so they should look nice!"

The result

"I would do a kitchen reno again because I find picking everything out so much fun," says Eva.

ABOVE The bevelled refrigerator door echoes the clean lines throughout the kitchen. "I could have left the wall above the range open, but I needed the extra storage," says Eva (pictured far left) of the two narrow cabinets flanking the range hood.

Liebherr **REFRIGERATOR,** Porter & Charles **RANGE,** Zephyr **RANGE HOOD,** Appliance Canada.

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ABOVE The breakfast bar is slim enough to be unobtrusive but wide enough to provide plenty of prep space.

STOOL, Casalife.

RIGHT Upper cabinets open out and up on sturdy hinges. "It takes some getting used to," says Eva with a laugh.

FAR RIGHT It's worthwhile to invest in pullout drawers for narrow, deep cabinets. "It's so handy to have all my oils, vinegars and spices accessible when I'm cooking," says Eva.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

BUDGET *breakdown*

Here's what it'll cost you to get the look of this kitchen.

MATERIALS

$23,570

- Custom cabinetry with under-cabinet lighting: **$14,850**
- Countertops and full-height backsplash: **$8,000**
- Cabinetry hardware: **$150**
- Flooring: **$570**

APPLIANCES

$12,970

- Refrigerator: **$4,600**
- Range: **$4,600**
- Range hood: **$1,270**
- Dishwasher: **$1,300**
- Sink: **$700**
- Faucet: **$500**

TOTAL COST

$36,540

(includes design; excludes labour)

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high OR low?

We designed a restful retreat with a plush queen-sized bed as its focal point on budgets akin to a power nap and a full night's sleep. Can you tell the difference?

PRODUCER ANDREA MCCRINDLE | **TEXT** MARY LEVITSKI | **PHOTOGRAPHY** MICHAEL NANGREAVES

HIGH $5,034

$329 US

1 George Nelson Bubble medium plastic-polymer-coated steel Saucer **PENDANT LIGHT,** 25", Design Within Reach, dwr.com.

$1,360

2 Inner Oval **MIRROR** with silver border, Union Lighting and Furnishings, unionlf.com.

$199

3 Powder-coated steel accordion plug-in Morgan **SCONCE** in Ivory, Crate and Barrel, crateandbarrel.ca.

$552

4 Lavato Italian linen/Egyptian cotton **SHAMS** in Natural, $74 each, and **DUVET COVER** in Natural, $404, Au Lit Fine Linens, aulitfinelinens.com.

$25

5 Distinctly Home glass Como **CARAFE** with cork lid, Hudson's Bay, thebay.com.

$25

6 Mikasa glass Swirl **TUMBLER** in White, Hudson's Bay, thebay.com.

$699

7 Handcrafted marble-topped painted cast-aluminum Elke **SIDE TABLE,** Crate and Barrel, crateandbarrel.ca.

$290

8 Ralph Lauren cotton sateen **FITTED & FLAT SHEETS** in Deco White, $145 each, Hudson's Bay, thebay.com.

$205

9 Cotton Grid Dot **COVERLET** in White, West Elm, westelm.com.

$1,350

10 West Afghan hand-spun wool kilim Soumak **RUG** with raised pile weave details, 5' x 7', Herat Carpets, heratcarpets.com.

HIGH & LOW Valspar Dogwood Petal CI203 **WALL PAINT** and Cashmere Pink CI-119 **ACCENT STRIPE WALL PAINT,** Lowe's, lowes.ca; Portrait linen Liz **TOSS CUSHION,** Trianon, trianon-online.com; white Nile **VOTIVE HOLDER,** crocheted Lana **CARDIGAN** (on hook), Anthropologie, anthropologie.com; gold-dipped porcelain **DISH** (used as coaster), Cambie Design, cambiedesign.com.

LOW $2,072

$260

1 Cotton Mesh Oval **PENDANT LIGHT,** 20", Union Lighting and Furnishings, unionlf.com.

$530

2 Gianna Venetian **MIRROR,** Union Lighting and Furnishings, unionlf.com.

$20

3 Powder-coated steel adjustable plug-in Ranarp **SCONCE,** IKEA, ikea.ca.

$90

4 Linen Linblomma **SHAMS & DUVET COVER** in Natural, per 3-piece set, IKEA, ikea.ca.

$18

5 Glass Stripes **BOTTLE** with plastic lid (not shown), Zara Home, zarahome.com.

$4

6 Glass Stripes **TUMBLER,** Zara Home, zarahome.com.

$325

7 Porcelain-topped brass-plated steel Oneda **SIDE TABLE,** Elte Market, eltemkt.com.

$140

8 Style at Home Collection cotton Embroidered **FLAT & FITTED SHEETS** in White, per 4-piece set, Sears, sears.ca.

$140

9 Style at Home Collection polyester Periwinkle Paisley **COVERLET,** Sears, sears.ca.

$545

10 North Afghan hand-spun wool kilim Chubi **RUG,** 4' x 6', Herat Carpets, heratcarpets.com.

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sham WOW

Five oatmeal-coloured **shams** boasting homespun charm impress with decorative flanges. Which style is your favourite?

1. frayed Rough edges lend rustic countryside appeal.

Cotton blend Daloni in Neutral with envelope closure, $98 US per pair, Anthropologie, anthropologie.com.

2. wide The voluminous flappy flange has a casual, laze-in-bed vibe.

Lavato Italian linen/Egyptian cotton in Natural with envelope closure, $74 each, Au Lit Fine Linens, aulitfinelinens.com.

3. classic A simple design and super-soft feel promise to make this washed-linen sham a long-standing favourite in your home.

Alamode Home washed-linen Morgan in Natural with envelope closure, $40 each, Elte Market, eltemkt.com.

4. contrasting A warm charcoal accent colour smartly frames this one, giving it a slightly serious, sophisticated air.

Linen blend Leah with button closure, $200 per 3-piece duvet set, Urban Barn, urbanbarn.com.

5. knotty The tie details give this option's single flange an upscale look.

Linen Linblomma with envelope closure, $90 per 3-piece duvet set, IKEA, ikea.ca.

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HOME MOTION by somfy.

stripe tease

Bored by the typical headboard? Here's an easy DIY alternative: Paint a stripe the width of the bed and the height of the wall using a contrasting hue. Then hang a large ornate Venetian mirror about two feet above the bed. Together, the two elements create the look of a grand headboard.

Valspar Cashmere Pink CI-119 **ACCENT STRIPE WALL PAINT,** Lowe's, lowes.ca; Gianna Venetian **MIRROR,** $530, Union Lighting and Furnishings, unionlf.com.

The painted accent stripe draws attention to the stunning Venetian mirror.

HISTORY LESSON

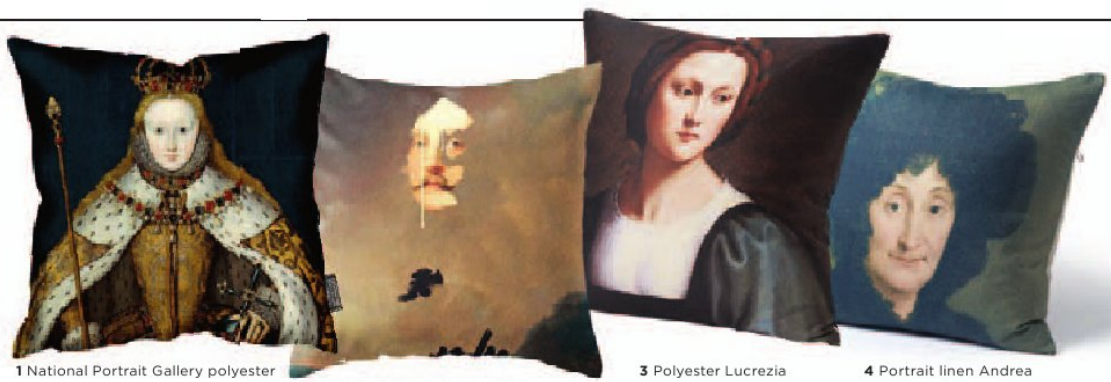
George Nelson Bubble medium plastic-polymer-coated steel Saucer **PENDANT LIGHT,** $329 US, Design Within Reach, dwr.com.

spidey sense

AMERICAN ARCHITECT AND FURNITURE DESIGNER GEORGE NELSON (1908–1986) WAS FOREVER PUSHING THE ENVELOPE. WORKING IN THE HEYDAY OF MID-CENTURY MODERN DESIGN ALONGSIDE THE LIKES OF EERO SAARINEN AND CHARLES AND RAY EAMES, GEORGE HONED IN ON HIS CONTEMPORARIES' FIXATION WITH SEATING. "EVERY TRULY ORIGINAL IDEA," HE WROTE, "SEEMS TO FIND ITS MOST IMPORTANT EXPRESSION IN A CHAIR." IT'S THIS KEEN SENSE OF OBSERVATION THAT LED GEORGE TO MAKE WAVES IN THE REALM OF LIGHTING IN 1947. INSPIRED BY A PHOTO OF CARGO SHIPS COVERED IN NETTING ENCASED IN SELF-WEBBING PLASTIC (A TRANSLUCENT WHITE SPRAY DEVELOPED FOR MILITARY USE), GEORGE AND ONE OF HIS IN-HOUSE DESIGNERS TRACKED DOWN THE "SPIDERWEBBY" SPRAY AND USED IT ON A SPHERICAL FRAME THEY FASHIONED FROM STEEL WIRE. THUS THE PROTOTYPE FOR THE FIRST BUBBLE PENDANT WAS BORN, AND THE REST IS HISTORY. MANY OF THE ORIGINAL DESIGNS IN THE LINE, INCLUDING THE SAUCER, ARE STILL IN PRODUCTION.

history in the (bed) making

Our High and Low bedrooms get their old-world charm from the **toss cushion,** which is adorned with the image of a veiled lady borrowed from a vintage French oil painting. Here are a few other toss cushion options featuring historic Mesdames (and even a Monsieur!).



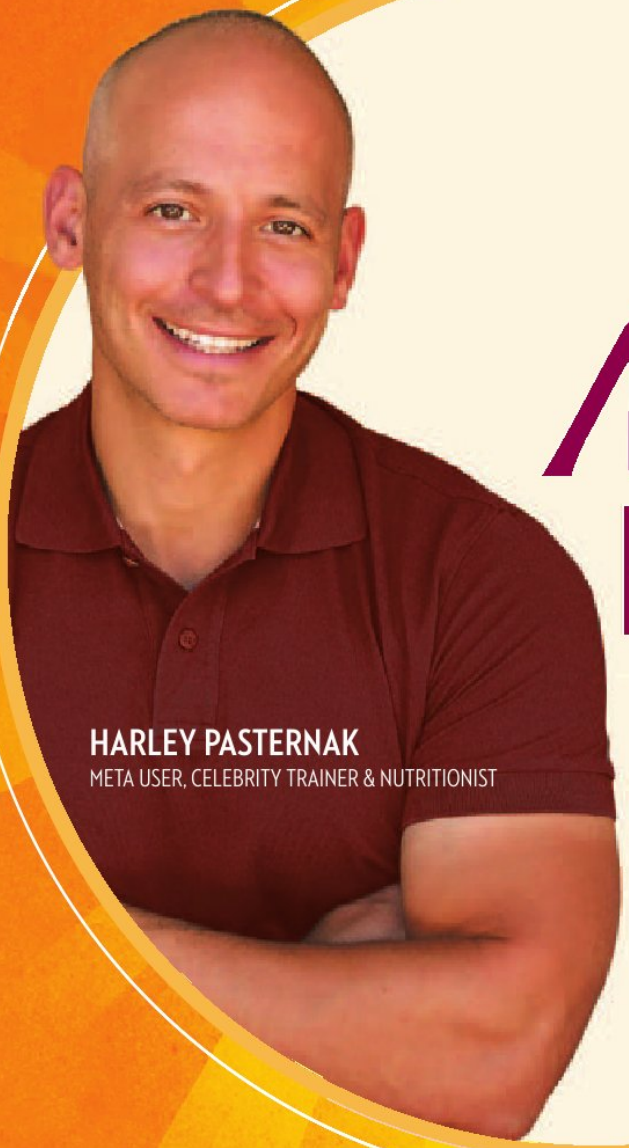
1 National Portrait Gallery polyester Queen Elizabeth I Arrow with feather insert, 18" x 18", $72, We Love Cushions, welovecushions.co.uk.

2 Chad Wys polyester Nocturne 109 with polyester insert, 16" x 16", $27 US, Society6, society6.com.

3 Polyester Lucrezia Sommaria with polyester insert, 16" x 16", $42, Zazzle, zazzle.ca.

4 Portrait linen Andrea with down/feather insert, 24" x 24", $325, Trianon, trianon-online.com.

1. industrial dining chair **119.99** 9377908 2. spotlight ceiling lamps **199.99 each** 9377797 **Bouclair**



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Write your goal down. Read it before you go to sleep. Tomorrow, do one small thing to help with that goal. Like having Meta in your morning glass of water to increase fibre in your diet.

To ensure this product is right for you, always read and follow the label. *For Adults Only: To achieve this new benefit, use two servings of Metamucil in 240 mL of cool liquid with meals, up to 3 times daily. **Lowers mildly to moderately elevated cholesterol levels when taken with a low-fat diet. For occasional use only. © 2015 P&G.

Walk This Way

Set a number of steps you must take before going to bed. Like 10,000 a day. Cool down and get your fibre by adding Meta to a Lemonade Chiller.

Hello H_2O

Staying hydrated could help you from overeating. It fills you up if you drink some before a meal. Even better, add Meta.

Kitchen Clean Out

Purge your cabinets of cookies, chips, and fatty meals. Move Meta from the medicine cabinet to the kitchen, then stock up on fresh fruits, veggies and whole grains.

Harley's Smoothie

5 almonds, 1 red apple, 1 banana, 3/4 cup nonfat Greek yogurt, 1/2 cup nonfat milk, 1 tsp. Meta, 1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon

Call a Pal

If you need some motivation to work out, call a friend. After you work out, add Meta to your water. Rehydrate and get a fibre boost.

A Smoothie Start

Breakfast kick-starts your metabolism and helps keep you alert throughout the day. Rushed for time and looking for ways to get Meta? Try a Banana-Orange Frosty with a scoop of Meta.

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Studies show that snacking before a grocery trip leads to less unhealthy food purchases. Why not get your fibre too? Mix a smoothie, add Meta and go.

Eat Out Less

Home cooking will cut out excess salt or flavouring condiments found in restaurants. Add Meta to your dinner beverage for extra fibre too.

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Oh, Mr. Sun

Get out and soak up some Vitamin D for strong bones and a good mood. While you're at it, add a scoop of Meta to your water bottle and get your fibre too.

Mind Changer

Change your mindset and you have the power to change your life. Want to add more fibre to your diet? Keep Meta at the office and at home.

Dine Out Tip

Drink a Meta powder smoothie before you dine out. It'll make you feel full and help suppress your appetite.*

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SHOPPERS DRUG MART

Though the look is simple and its colours are muted, homeowner Herma Vegter-Petrie's family room is interesting and inviting, thanks to layered textures and fabric galore. The down-stuffed sofa is overflowing with down-filled toss cushions and Icelandic hides. "Everyone just caves into that sofa," says Herma.

Revere Pewter HC-172 **WALL PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; **SOFA,** custom slipcovered **COFFEE TABLE, TOSS CUSHIONS,** grey cable-knit **THROW,** Lëuk Bij Hermas.

TEXT SARA CATION
PHOTOGRAPHY ROBIN STUBBERT
STYLING CHRISTINE HANLON

texture TRUMPS *all*

With plush textures, layers upon layers of grey have never looked so inviting.

A Dutch upbringing plus beloved trips to Paris and a home base in Ontario's ski town, Collingwood, amount to a personal style

that stands out all on its own. "My style isn't influenced by a specific place," says homeowner Herma Vegter-Petrie. "It's just from my brain." The owner of two lifestyle stores (Lëuk Bij Hermas and Lëuk 2) that exude the same look as her own home, Herma has the market cornered on this aesthetic.

All plush and tone on tone with weathered texture infused throughout, her house is warm, elegant and inviting. "It's hard to say what my style is. There are so many influences, I can't define it," she says. "It's just me." Here, we try our best to break it down so we can all embrace that monochromatic magic.

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2 | On Repeat

To establish continuity, Herma made the dining room (which is located on the second floor of this reverse-plan house) very similar to the outdoor dining area (shown on the next page). Major pieces like the table and chandelier are identical (or almost so), indoors and out. Inside, slipcovered dining chairs with skirts and an antique-look settee add informal elegance to the table.

Smokey Taupe 983 **WALL PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; **DINING TABLE,** custom slipcovered **DINING CHAIRS, SIDEBOARD, SETTEE, CHANDELIER,** Lëuk Bij Hermas.

3 | Roped In

Twine, rope and everything taupe(ish): This basket, which sits exposed to the elements on the porch, adds effortless and unexpected texture.

4 | Collective Soul

What is it about a curated collection that adds soul to a space? On her family room coffee table, Herma has amassed an eclectic grouping of small white ceramics, including bowls, vases and votive holders. Each item is a souvenir from a different destination she's visited, whether on a big European vacation or a smaller Canadian getaway.

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*In addition to JUVÉDERM®, the women in these photos received a cosmetic injectable to treat the eye area and forehead. Treatments in photos performed by Dr. Vince Bertucci. Actual treatment results may vary.

1. Pinsky M.A., Thomas J.A., Murphy D.K., *et al.* Juvéderm injectable gel: a multicenter, double-blind, randomized study of safety and effectiveness. *Aesthet Surg J.* 2008; 28:596-597.

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APC23YU14

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5 | Blurred Lines

The outdoor dining area is comfy and cozy, echoing the inside. Drapery (made of old European canvas military tarps) provides privacy and protection from the elements, and the low-hung chandelier adds intimacy. Yet the space still suits its outdoor surroundings – from the floor to the ceiling (and everything in between), the look is weathered and woodsy but far from rustic.

Forest Hills Green 433 **SIDING PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; **DINING TABLE, DINING CHAIRS, DRAPERY, CHANDELIER, PITCHER, DISHWARE, GLASSWARE, NAPKINS,** black **TRAY,** Leuk Bij Hermas.

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Dear Viva,

We were excited to host our first outdoor party of the year, but our backyard was looking worse for wear. Before inviting guests over we decided to spruce up the patio and jump into gardening. We picked up some Viva to get things done, and you were definitely the right towel for the job! Your stretch, strength and absorbency helped get us out of even the messiest of messes. We can't wait to spend time outside now... with some Viva nearby to catch any spills, of course!

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A wet garden and a playful dog make for one messy combo. Muddy paw prints are no match for Viva towel's stretch and durability. Do your worst, rainy days!

POTS AND PLANTERS

Our flowers looked great after a day of gardening, but the pots and planters were pretty dirty. Viva towel's stretch and scrubbing power was so remarkable that we only needed one sheet to bring our containers back to life!

PUT STRETCH TO THE TEST ON ALL YOUR MESSES.
STRETCH YOUR SAVINGS AT **VIVATOWELS.CA**

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6 | Serene Slumber

"Dream Weaver" takes on new meaning when your bed is layered with pretty white linens. The bed frame is covered in one piece of linen that can be removed and washed, and its headboard is curved like a wing-back chair, creating an intimate environment for reading, cuddling and dreaming. Herma made the artwork above it with plaster that she let crack (to mimic an ancient European wall); she secured small ceramics to it with twine to create an old-world look with lots of dimension.

Ivory White CC-130 **WALL PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; slipcovered **BED FRAME, BEDDING,** vintage canvas **RUG, TOSS CUSHION,** Lëuk Bij Hermas; **SCONCES,** IKEA.

7 | Nailed It

Not a huge fan of hanging photography in the traditional sense, Herma had this old photo printed on canvas, then ripped its edges to make it look vintage. She secured the canvas to a piece of weathered barnboard using antique nails from her store. And the photo itself has meaning: It's of her husband's high school football team, right after they won a tournament.

8 | Textural Touches

The family room's antique wash basin is the perfect spot for a chunky grey cable-knit throw. The contrast of textures – new and plush versus old and chipped – just begs you to reach out and touch them.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

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TEXT CHRISTY WRIGHT

PHOTOGRAPHY MICHAEL GRAYDON

STYLING CHRISTINE HANLON

let there be light

Designer Neil Asselin helps a city couple transform a dark country chapel into a heavenly light-filled retreat.

Designer Neil Asselin fitted the living room with cabinetry that provides storage and a perch for the TV. "I like that the cabinets are white so they blend in, and they're low, so they don't compete with the windows." Not only practical, they also offer a spot for decorative accents, such as the clock, which was a gift to the homeowners from Neil.

DESIGN, Neil Christopher Asselin, neilasselin.com; Classic Gray OC-23 **WALL PAINT** (throughout), Paper White OC-55 **CEILING PAINT** (throughout), Clay Beige OC-11 **FLOOR PAINT** (throughout), Benjamin Moore; **CABINETRY,** botanical-print **TOSS CUSHIONS,** IKEA; lidded bamboo **JARS,** Crate and Barrel.

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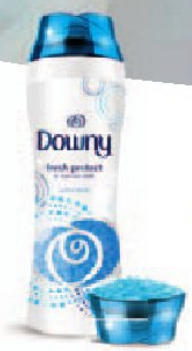

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BELOW "Pale tones are reserved for architecture and large furniture. Colour and pattern come through in the accessories," says Neil. Slipcovered furniture is easy to clean, and the sofa features a queen-sized pullout bed – smart details for a vacation rental home.

Slipcovered **SOFA & ARMCHAIRS,** black **SIDE TABLE,** Putti Fine Furnishings; **CHANDELIER,** Around the Block; blue striped **TOSS CUSHIONS,** HomeSense; white **TOSS CUSHIONS** with blue piping, taupe striped **TOSS CUSHION, BOOKS, TRAY,** Elte.

ABOVE Brick fence posts topped with stone finials and covered with vines frame a gate to the neighbouring farm. "We often see cows grazing on the other side of the fence," says homeowner Michael Stewart. "This view is bucolic and really makes you feel like you're living in the countryside. I think the gate opens but I've never tried because I don't want to disturb the vines!"

sometimes a renovation requires a leap of faith. This was especially true for real estate agent Michael Stewart and retailer Chris Clancy, the Toronto couple who became owners of this late-19th-century chapel in Roslin, Ont., about a year and a half ago. "A friend of ours was the previous owner, and we had visited him at the property, which is just two hours from Toronto," says Michael. "We'd been looking for a retreat, and when he put the chapel up for sale, we remembered how much we loved it and made an offer."

Attracted to the chapel's acre-plus lot, separate guest house and proximity to the vibrant restaurants and wineries of Prince Edward County, the couple was less taken with its 1,400-square-foot interior. Spread out over one floor, it had dark walls and a cedar ceiling that Michael recalls as "heavy and enclosed – more of a church than a living space."

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of our big Italian family.

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A patterned rug creates a sense of place in the large open dining area and provides an energetic counterpoint to the white backdrop. A new built-in sideboard shares the space with an antique dining table and a hand-forged wrought-iron chandelier from France.

DINING CHAIRS, CHANDELIER, Around the Block; custom **DINING CHAIR COVERS & DRAPERY,** Reg Dohms at Luxe Studio; **CABINETRY** (used as sideboard), IKEA; **RUG,** West Elm; **TABLE LAMPS,** Putti Fine Furnishings; fern **PLANT,** Sheridan Nurseries.

To evolve the aesthetic from cloistered to cool, the couple turned to designer Neil Asselin, who had helped transform their city home. He was their trusted source – until he surveyed the space and uttered the blasphemous words, "Let's paint the ceiling white." Michael and Chris blanched at first but Neil persisted and, after some convincing, the couple agreed to his plan. "A lot of people are averse to painting wood," says Neil. "To be fair, this ceiling is a huge surface so it was a lot of change, but if I kept the wood as is, the space wouldn't have the fresh and expansive feel it has now. It would be too distracting and not for any great reason – we weren't dealing with the Sistine Chapel here."

Neil's brush strokes didn't stop there. He painted the dark walls a very pale grey and, after ripping out the carpeting, painted the wood floors beneath a soft sand colour – except in the bedroom, where new hardwood was installed to remedy a previous mish-mash of flooring materials. He added built-in storage, upgraded all the light fixtures and completely remodelled the kitchen, which now boasts a stainless steel fridge, an island with an induction cooktop and a dishwasher hidden behind a panel of cabinetry.

Michael and Chris are happy they put their faith in Neil. "As a real estate agent, I've seen many church conversions that end up looking awkward," says Michael. "This doesn't. It now feels less like

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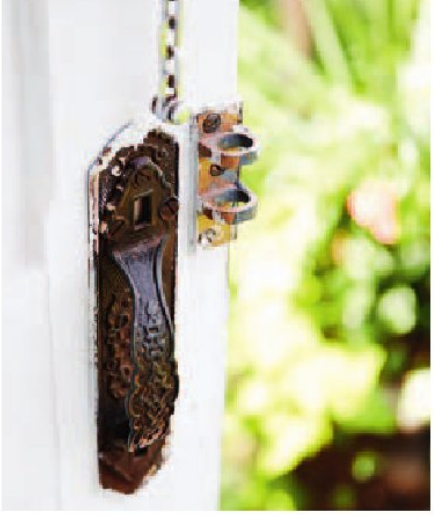

RIGHT The paint splotches around this front door pull have a misleading air of antiquity. "They're actually from us," says Michael. "Chris and I were doing last-minute paint touch-ups to prep the place for guests, and I guess we rushed it a bit." The result is a perfectly imperfect effect that looks like it's been there for ages.

The bedroom's minimal design allows the tiny stained-glass window to be the focal point. "It's the only strong ecclesiastical element in the place," says Neil. "So honouring it seemed logical."

BED FRAME, TABLE LAMP, Of Things Past; **BEDDING, TOSS CUSHIONS,** IKEA.

"It now feels less like a church AND MORE LIKE A HOME."

LEFT A wooden bench beside the front door provides a perfect perch for guests to drop off bags and put on shoes.

BENCH, vintage **ARTWORK,** Around the Block; hide **TOSS CUSHIONS,** HomeSense.

FAR LEFT Blue-grey cabinetry, an apron-front sink and walnut butcher-block countertops are classic country touches that cozy up the newly remodelled kitchen. Original windows take precedence over upper cabinetry, while the dramatic black iron chandelier balances rural charm with a touch of elegance.

CABINETRY, COOKTOP, SINK, FAUCET, IKEA; **COUNTERTOPS,** Knotty's Woodwork; **REFRIGERATOR,** Sears; chrome **BREADBOX,** Crate and Barrel.

a church and more like a home." The transformation took three months to complete and, soon after, the home was christened Roslin Hall. "We were thinking of calling it Roslin Abbey," says Neil. "But that sounded far too grand for such a cozy place."

With the chapel's previous public incarnation in mind, the couple rents out the space when they're not there (roslinhall.ca). "It's almost booked up for the entire summer and quickly filling up for the rest of the year, too," says Michael. "A lot of our guests are repeat visitors, so I guess you could say we're preaching to the converted."

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

SOMETIMES FOOD CAN REALLY SPEAK TO KIDS.

Moms just know.

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This charming bunkie embraces relaxed summer living with its rustic whitewashed interior and cozy furnishings.

sleeping beauty

TEXT HELEN RACANELLI

PHOTOGRAPHY DONNA GRIFFITH | **STYLING** MORGAN LINDSAY

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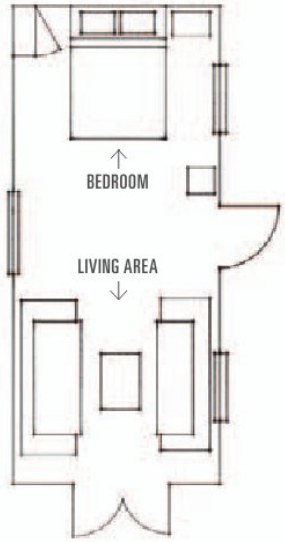

THE FLOOR PLAN

RIGHT Framed botanical prints are layered atop a whitewashed window to add depth to the pretty vignette over the custom sofa.

DESIGN, Jessica Kelly Design, jessicakellydesign.com; Oyster Bay 90YY 63/044 **WALL PAINT,** Dulux Paints; **SOFA,** Jessica Kelly Design; **SOFA FABRIC,** Designer Fabrics; **COFFEE TABLE,** The Olde Stanton Store; **SIDE TABLE** (painted), Artemano; framed botanical **PRINTS,** HomeSense; patterned **TOSS CUSHIONS, THROWS,** Elte; vintage **LADDER,** Legacy Vintage Building Materials & Antiques.

BELOW Designer Jessica Kelly's bunkhouse is one of three buildings on her family's property. As part of its refurbishment, the exterior was painted a deep green shade.

Topsoil CC-692 **EXTERIOR PAINT,** Benjamin Moore.

Bunkie.

For those not familiar with this sweet yet evocative term, "a bunkie is someone's personal sleeping cottage," explains Jessica Kelly, a Toronto-based designer and the summer resident of this rustic-chic cabin. So while a bunkhouse lacks all the modern conveniences, such as a kitchen, bathroom and a walled-off bedroom, this one has effortless white-on-white cottage style in abundance and offers a serene hideaway for Jessica to relax, read, nap or hang out with guests. The property, located on an island in Stoney Lake, Ont., belongs to Jessica's family. "My parents bought a boathouse about 13 years ago, and it came with two bunkies," she says. During the summer, her parents occupy the main building, her sister uses one of the bunkies and Jessica presides over this one.

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For the past two summers, Jessica spent weekends fixing up the 220-square-foot space. "We finally put some work into it," she says, as previous efforts had been dedicated to sprucing up the boathouse and the other bunkie. "When you're updating a vacation home, it takes much longer because you're not there all the time." And since they're on an island, everything had to be brought over by boat, which meant Jessica had to be judicious and confident about her choices.

One thing that struck Jessica at the start of the design process was that the interior should be mostly white. "I thought, 'This place deserves to be fresh and light.'" She created a pale and patinated envelope by whitewashing the original wood plank floors and painting the walls a soft green shade and the exposed ceiling rafters white. She also whitewashed the window she hung above the sofa to reinforce the airy vibe. The other furnishings are a creative mix of custom, vintage and hand-me-down pieces. "There's a fine line between rustic and rundown, but this place is definitely more rustic and cozy," she says, "which I'm so happy with."

"This place deserves to be FRESH and LIGHT."

TOP "It's nice to open up the French doors and enjoy a cup of coffee on the sofa when the sun comes in," says Jessica. The number "7" sign is actually a tray that she hung up for a fun touch.

Twig **CHAIR,** The Olde Stanton Store; wooden **TRAY** (used as sign), HomeSense.

ABOVE A cheerful mix of old and new contributes to the space's summery, rustic vibe. The antique washstand is quaint, covetable and totally practical in a bunkie, which doesn't have a sink.

TABLE LAMP, HomeSense; **TROPHIES** (used as vases), Love the Design; Style at Home Collection **TOWELS,** Sears.

LEFT White bedding adds to the bunkie's fresh look, while the mirrored door conceals an electrical panel.

BEDDING, TOSS CUSHIONS, Elte.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

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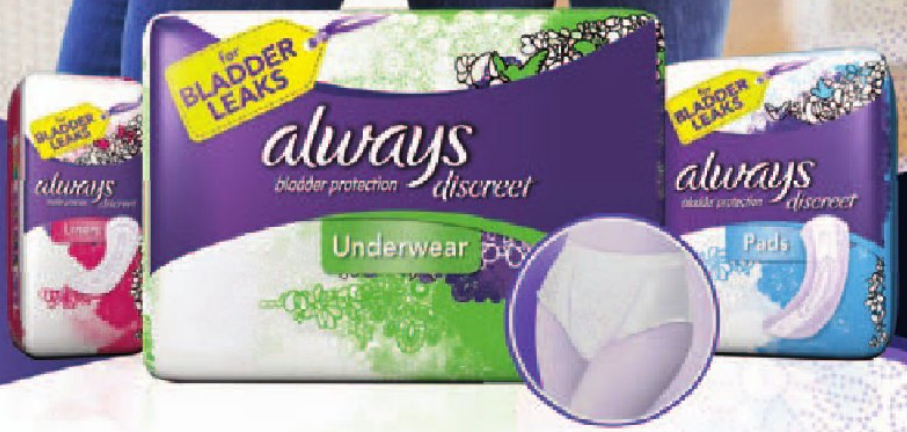

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JULY 2015

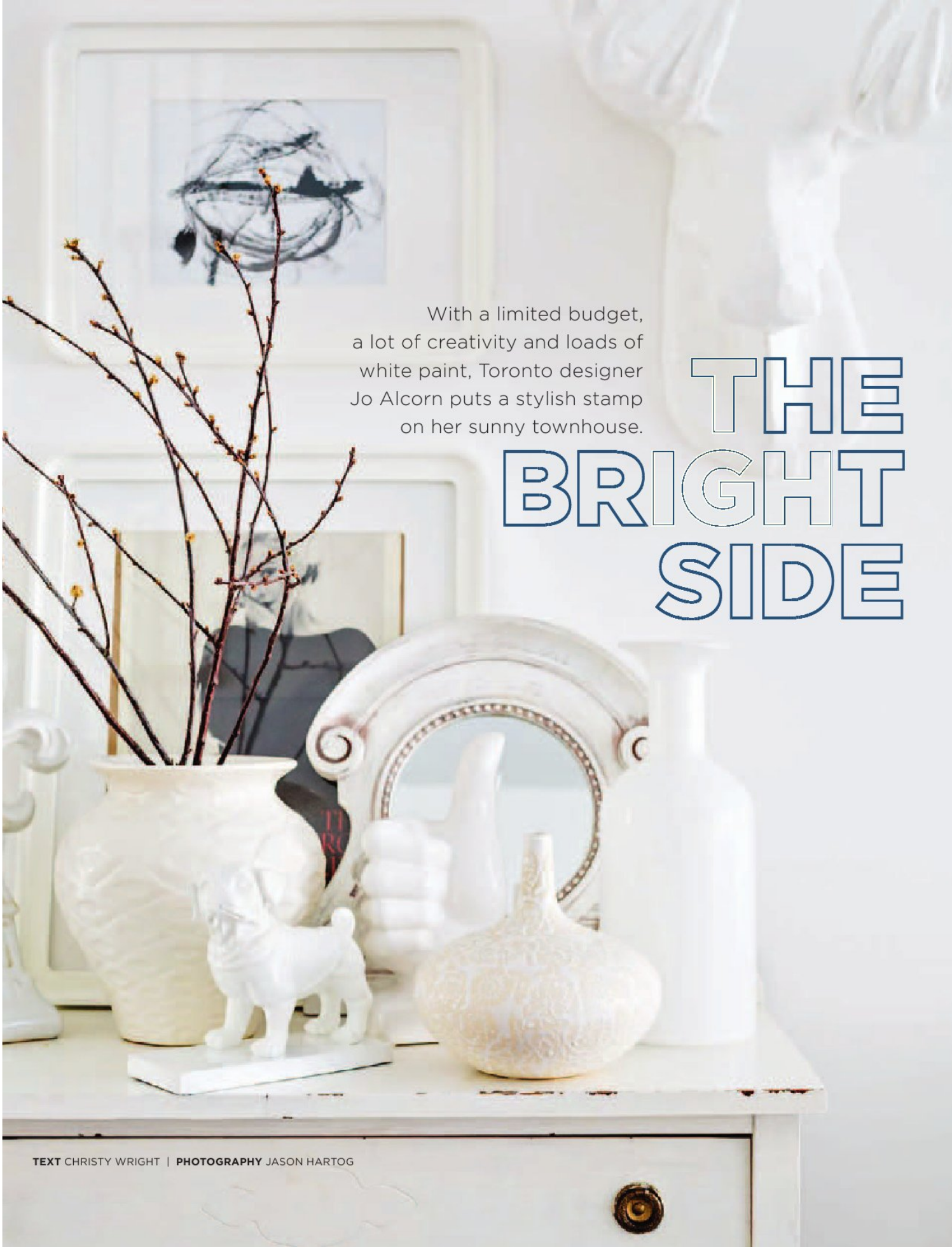
MAGICAL THINKING

The alchemy that is summer decorating starts with a fresh palette to reflect the long bright days and still sultry nights that come with the season. Add to that a patchwork of textures that invites relaxed lounging, a dash of nature's serene simplicity and a myriad of nostalgic memories and you've got a presentation that's definitely not just a trick of the eye.

PHOTOGRAPHY, TRACEY AYTON

"My dining room is just 10 feet wide, so it was tricky to figure out the scale of the furniture," says homeowner and designer Jo Alcorn. To remedy this, she enlisted her father to craft a narrow dining table with benches that tuck underneath. "He used pine planks, and it cost a fraction of the price of a similar-looking table I had my eye on." A modern white end chair plays off the rustic style of the table.

DESIGN, Whitewash & Co., whitewashandco.ca; Jo Jo Whitewash PF17 **WALL PAINT** (throughout), Para Paints; **WOOD** (dining table and benches), The Home Depot; white Eames-style **ARMCHAIR,** Morba; **DRAPERY,** IKEA; white **ANIMAL HEAD,** West Elm.



THE BRIGHT SIDE

With a limited budget, a lot of creativity and loads of white paint, Toronto designer Jo Alcorn puts a stylish stamp on her sunny townhouse.

TEXT CHRISTY WRIGHT | **PHOTOGRAPHY** JASON HARTOG

Myriad combinations of Jo's signature look – an abundance of white, graphic black accents and soft touches like comfy furniture, throws and toss cushions – define the living room as both stylish and approachable. "This is where my dogs, Lucy and Ricky, and I spend a lot of time," she says. "White furniture is actually a cleaning lifesaver with white shedding dogs!"

SECTIONAL, SIDECHAIR, Jo Alcorn Furniture Collection; **RUG,** IKEA; To the Moon & Back **TOSS CUSHION,** sheepskin **THROW,** round **TRAY,** HomeSense; **TOSS CUSHIONS,** CB2.

OPPOSITE, TOP LEFT The galley kitchen's maple cabinetry was punched up with paint and vintage brass hardware. "The upper cabinets are the same colour as the walls," says Jo. "And I used a charcoal shade on the lowers to blend in with the black appliances and anchor the room." A runner helps disguise the original floor tiles until Jo replaces them.

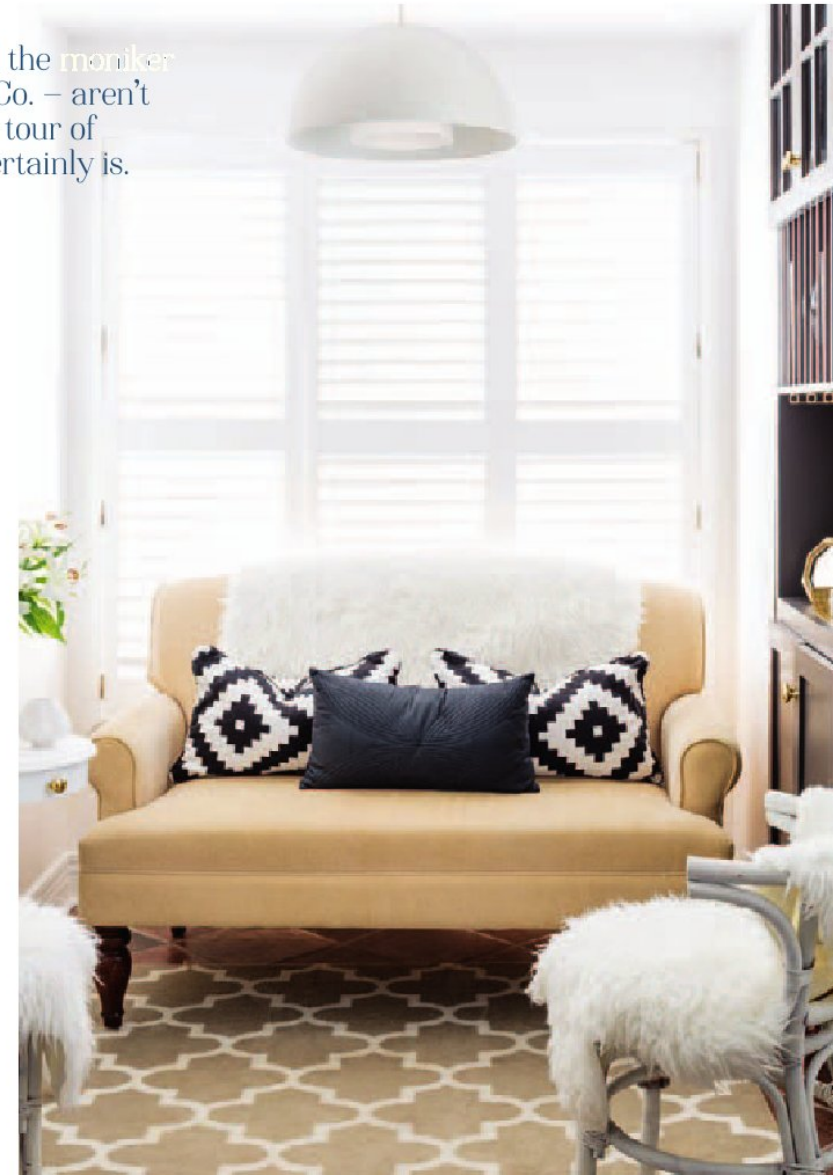
Jo Jo Whitewash PF17 **UPPER CABINETRY PAINT,** Heavy Metal P5244-73D **LOWER CABINETRY PAINT,** Para Paints; **FAUCET,** Delta Faucet; **CABINETRY HARDWARE,** Sycamore Vintage.

If her signature platinum blond hair and the moniker of her design firm – Whitewash & Co. – aren't proof of her affinity for a certain shade, then a tour of Jo Alcorn's west-end Toronto townhouse certainly is.

White permeates the light-filled interior, from the furniture and accessories right down to the paint, which isn't just any colour, but Jo Jo Whitewash, the namesake blend she custom designed for Para Paints. It was also the catalyst for her choice to infuse the 1,900-square-foot three-storey home with a fresh and crisp brio.

While the listing for the townhouse piqued her interest two years ago, tempting her with more space in her preferred neighbourhood, the viewing didn't. "I actually wasn't going to take it," she says. "All the walls were painted yellow, and there were heavy old drapes, maple cabinetry and a sad-looking patio." Before she shut the door on the property forever, her aesthetic instincts kicked in and she knew she could run with it. "I realized underneath it all, the house had good bones: 12-foot-high ceilings, detailed crown mouldings, clean lines and tons of natural light. I signed on the dotted line."

In the mood to save rather than splurge, Jo put plans for creating a dream kitchen on hold and set about transforming the existing into the exciting. First on the agenda: paint. She chose Jo Jo Whitewash, not surprisingly, to energize every room except for the master suite (which features soft lavender walls) and replaced the heavy



RIGHT Inspired by the conviviality of country kitchens with designated seating areas, Jo nixed an eat-in area in favour of a cozy sitting nook that's perfect for morning coffee and evening cocktails.

SHUTTERS, Hunter Douglas; **PENDANT LIGHT,** black and white **TOSS CUSHIONS,** IKEA; sheepskin **THROWS,** HomeSense.

Since every wall in the master bedroom features a window or a door, Jo had no choice but to position the bed in front of a small window. She found a headboard tall enough to hide its awkward placement, but the colour was wrong. Jo reupholstered it using a patterned fabric shower curtain and a staple gun. The result is a showpiece crafted on a shoestring budget.

Duchess Satin P5250-14 **WALL PAINT,** Para Paints; **SHOWER CURTAIN** (used on headboard), **BEDDING, DRAPERY, MIRRORS,** HomeSense; **NIGHTSTANDS, RUG, TABLE LAMPS,** Mirens; Jo Alcorn **PENDANT LIGHT,** Artcraft.

OPPOSITE The nightstand introduces a warm element (as well as handy storage) to the bedroom. The mirror reflects natural light and provides a feeling of spaciousness, while the dramatic horn lamp offers a sculptural balance to the large-scale headboard.

"The look is modern but not as fussy as you might expect with a mostly white design."

drapery with custom shutters in the kitchen and soft white sheers in the open-concept living and dining areas. Wallet-friendly black accents, whether in the form of paint, toss cushions, rugs or artwork, were used generously throughout to animate the pale backdrop and prevent the house from feeling stark.

"The look is modern," says Jo, "but not as fussy as you might expect with a mostly white design." The casual vibe is equally considerate of her two Jack Russell terriers, Lucy and Ricky. "They have free rein of the house," she says, "so I only used white fabrics with high rub counts, such as microsuede and velvet. They're durable, washable and look better when lived in. I also entertain a lot, so I wanted my guests to feel comfortable."

Jo's decorating finesse was matched by her cost-saving savvy, which allowed her to give the space a serious facelift without the drama of renovation dust. "In the kitchen, especially, I relied on inexpensive items like paint and new hardware to make a big impact with budget-friendly flair. They'll hold me over in the meantime, as I have big dreams for this kitchen," she says, "including new flooring, a fun range hood and a marble-topped island, which will be white, of course!"

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

GET THE LOOK

STEAL JO ALCORN'S WHITE-WASHED MODERN RUSTIC STYLE.

1 Triangular Bevel Rectangular Framed **MIRROR,** $80, Lowe's, lowes.ca.

2 1006-02 **LOVESEAT,** from $2,280, Cocoon Furnishings, cocoon-furnishings.ca.

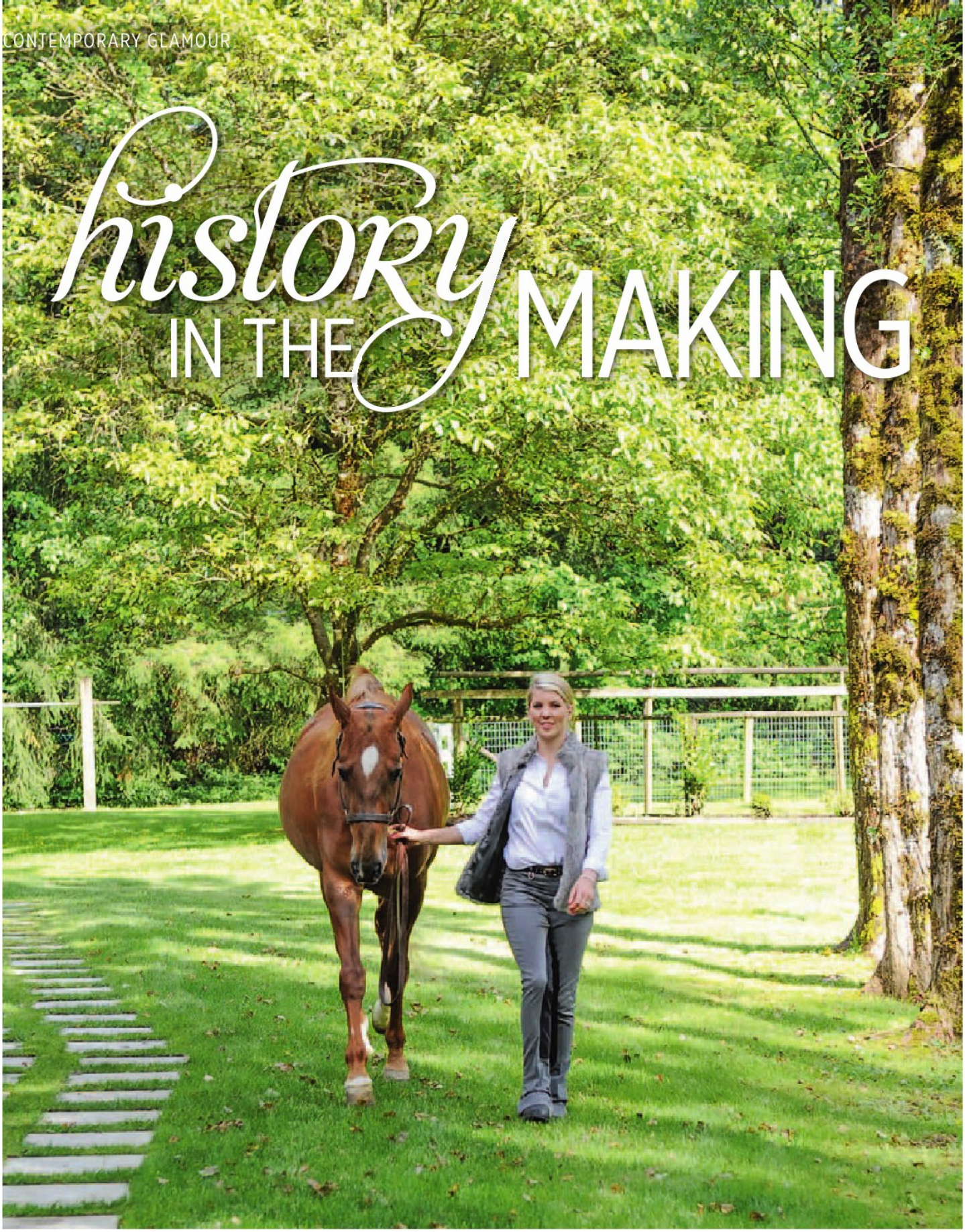
3 Dakota **DINING TABLE,** 77", $1,699, Crate and Barrel, crateandbarrel.ca.

4 Maison 4-drawer **DRESSER** in Antiqued White, $1,595 US, Restoration Hardware, rh.com.

5 Source Kudu **TABLE LAMP,** $219, West Elm, westelm.com.

6 Scroll Tile **RUG** in Mocha, from $281, Pottery Barn, potterybarn.com.

history IN THE MAKING



How a stylish couple and a talented designer created a simple yet sophisticated Hamptons-style retreat near Fort Langley, B.C., that honours its picturesque surroundings.

TEXT LAURA MUIR | **PHOTOGRAPHY** TRACEY AYTON

OPPOSITE Homeowner Rashell Gouwenberg with her American Saddlebred, Miss Impressive.

ABOVE & RIGHT A trip to Martha's Vineyard inspired the East Coast style of the shingled house. "The foyer was built to look like a little house to create a more dramatic entryway," says Rashell. A delicate crystal chandelier and Moroccan-style hand-carved wood bench suit the grand scale of the space.

DESIGN, Peridot Decorative Homewear, peridot.ca; **ARCHITECTURE,** 3G Architecture; **CONTRACTING, FLOORING** (throughout), Carerra Projects; Silver Satin OC-26 **WALL PAINT** (throughout), Benjamin Moore; **BENCH, CHANDELIER, TOSS CUSHIONS,** Peridot Decorative Homewear.

TOP RIGHT A chunky wood table and shimmery linen chairs create an inviting look in the dining area.

DISHWARE, VASE, hammam **HAND TOWELS,** crystal **CANDLESTICKS,** Peridot Decorative Homewear.

The open-concept family room, dining area and kitchen exemplify the comfortable, airy aesthetic of Rashell's East Coast-inspired house. "It's all about keeping the shell of your inspiration and then putting in those pieces that create a unique space," says designer Leah Balderson. For example, the dining area's sculptural chandelier and floor-to-ceiling fireplace surround made of iridescent glass mosaic tiles serve as show-stopping focal points.

Custom **SOFA, DINING TABLE,** custom **DINING CHAIRS,** Ghost-style **END CHAIRS, SIDEBOARD, BAR CART, FIREPLACE SURROUND WALL TILES,** cowhide **RUG,** etched-wood **WALL PANEL,** *Peony Garden* **ARTWORK** by Kim Johnston, **CHANDELIER, TABLE LAMPS, TOSS CUSHIONS,** white resin **TRAY** (with candles), Peridot Decorative Homewear; gas **FIREPLACE,** Carerra Projects.

OPPOSITE, FAR RIGHT Rashell found a pair of Louis XV-style armchairs, originally a green colour, at an antiques store. She had them painted white and reupholstered in linen. They now flank the glass coffee table in the living room, which takes up little visual space.

COFFEE TABLE, Peridot Decorative Homewear; **RUG,** East India Carpets.

"This is a really special place,"

says homeowner Rashell Gouwenberg, as she lovingly describes the five-acre parcel of land where she and her husband had their Hamptons-style dream home built three years ago. The idyllic acreage on the outskirts of Fort Langley, B.C., neighbours a conservation area and boasts spectacular forest and mountain views.

After purchasing the private oasis, the couple embarked on constructing a five-bedroom 3,400-square-foot home that would complement the tranquility of its surroundings. The exterior's classic East Coast vibe was inspired by a trip to Martha's Vineyard. "It's a traditional-looking home from the outside," says Rashell. But the inside, with its more contemporary aesthetic, is a bit of a surprise. "I wanted it to feel very modern and fresh when you walked through the front door."

To help her attain this look, Rashell enlisted Leah Balderson of Vancouver's Peridot Decorative Homewear. (The pair worked so well together that Rashell made a career change and now co-owns the popular housewares store with Leah.)

The row of windows was the jumping-off point for the design of the bright, white kitchen. "I really wanted to have these big windows that overlooked the barn and the plains and the pond," says Rashell.

Custom **CABINETRY, COUNTERTOPS, BACKSPLASH, SINK, FAUCET,** Carerra Projects; **DISHWASHER,** Asko; **STOOLS, PENDANT LIGHTS,** Peridot Decorative Homewear.

Inspired by the 24-foot-high ceiling, large picture windows and open-concept main floor, Leah decided to enhance the house's airiness by injecting it with a dose of white-on-white luxury. "I find a soft palette very soothing and relaxing," she says.

Creating a modern yet inviting look in the distinctively white home involved mixing together champagne- and grey-toned elements, warm metals, organic and textural accents and standout statement pieces. The show-stopping light fixtures, for instance, lend drama, but "since they each have an organic quality to them, they also add a little bit of softness and uniqueness to the spaces," says Leah.

Taking less than a year to build, the house marked the next chapter for both the land and the couple. "There's a small cabin on the property where we lived for six months while the construction was underway," says Rashell. "That year, we also got married and went to South Africa for a month because I was on the Canadian Saddle Seat World Cup team. I said: 'If our marriage can survive this, we can survive anything!'" We can't predict what lies ahead, but we're confident these two will continue to complement each other as well as their new dream home complements them.

OPPOSITE, RIGHT The kitchen's Shaker-style cabinetry, quartz countertops, marble backsplash and striped stools create a timeless look that is juxtaposed with unexpected elements like the pierced-resin pendant lights, brass hardware and distressed mirror.

RANGE, WALL OVEN, Sub-Zero and Wolf; **MICROWAVE,** Panasonic; **MIRROR,** Peridot Decorative Homewear; **CABINETRY HARDWARE,** Lee Valley Tools.

ABOVE, LEFT When combined with clean-lined furnishings and a neutral palette, the 73-inch-high brushed-brass table lamp makes a dramatic statement in the master bedroom.

Candice Olson **WALLPAPER, BED FRAME, NIGHTSTAND, BEDDING, TABLE LAMP, TOSS CUSHION, THROW,** Peridot Decorative Homewear; **RUG,** East India Carpets.

ABOVE The stunning hand-painted mercury glass pendant light anchoring the bathtub in the master bathroom complements the natural surroundings.

BATHTUB, FAUCET, Carerra Projects; **MIRROR, PENDANT LIGHT,** Peridot Decorative Homewear.

LEFT The croc velvet cushions on the faux leather slipper chair in the master bedroom add a luxe touch.

DRESSER, custom **SLIPPER CHAIR,** *Lily Pond* **ARTWORK** by Kim Johnston, Peridot Decorative Homewear.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

THE *family* STONE

When it comes to cottage style, having the latest finishes and fanciest fabrics is nice, sure – but embracing tradition and family togetherness is even better.

TEXT SARA CATION

PHOTOGRAPHY DONNA GRIFFITH

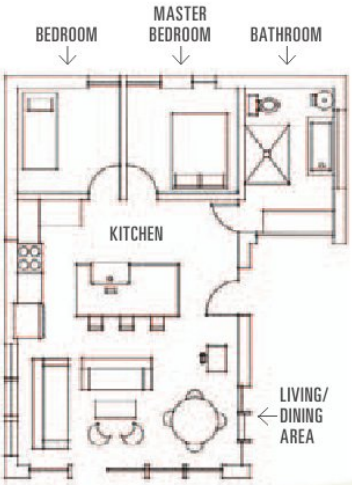
Determined to keep all the original doors made by her grandpa in her sister's family cottage, *Style at Home* editor-in-chief Erin McLaughlin updated them with a coat of white paint. The weathered teal workbench was her grandpa's as well.

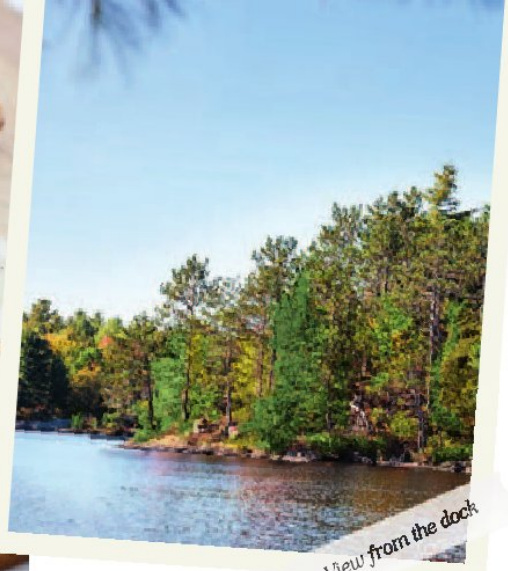
Behr Decorator White PWN-10 **WALL & DOOR PAINT** (throughout), Behr Graceful Gray PPU18-12 **FLOOR PAINT** (throughout), The Home Depot.

The light and airy dining area feels like a solarium when the sun is at its brightest. With huge windows showcasing the surrounding sylvan landscape, this room requires little in terms of decor.

DINING TABLE, IKEA.

THE FLOOR PLAN





View from the dock

Siblings at play

ABOVE & FAR LEFT The cottage is right on the waterfront, where Erin's nephew and niece, Justin and Marieve Gagnon, love to swim and explore.

LEFT Erin kept the kitchen really simple, letting the high-gloss white finishes increase the space's brightness by bouncing light around. Though Erin and her sister Alexis McLaughlin bought a new range, microwave oven and fridge, the big heartbreak was that they couldn't fit a dishwasher into the small space. Instead, a large farmhouse-style apron-front double sink offers a spot to share dishwashing duties.

APPLIANCES, IKEA.

BELOW A collection of glasses, vases and crisp white serveware displayed in a slate grey cabinet offers a quaint curated look that's in keeping with the rest of the (almost) all-white cottage.

CABINET, IKEA.

IT'S NOT *THE SIZE* of the cottage that counts – or the luxury. Cottage living is all about spending time with family and friends, following tradition and building memories. A case in point is the homey 589-square-foot two-bedroom cottage in Ontario's Kawartha Lakes that's been in *Style at Home* editor-in-chief Erin McLaughlin's family for generations.

Now owned by Erin's elder sister, Alexis McLaughlin, the cottage was built in the 1940s by their late grandfather on land he bought and split in half with his best friend. It started as a simple one-room cabin, but over the next decade more space was added as comfort demanded and time and budget permitted. The finishes followed, including a dropped ceiling and linoleum floor ("This was the '50s after all," says Erin).

In the late '90s, Erin's grandpa passed away, and her dad, a former architect, took over the cottage. He set about beautifying it by knocking down walls and stripping it back to the studs (*au revoir*, dropped ceiling and linoleum floor). And it was left like that – half renovated – for several years, until Alexis started spending summer vacations there with her husband, Hugues Gagnon, and their kids, Justin, 12, and Marieve, 10. "My kids are the fourth generation here, so it's really

Of course, the kitchen includes hallmarks of the family's history: Above the range is Erin's dad's collection of vases, on the wall are vintage foodie prints that belonged to her stepmother (a former cook) and up high is a tiny stained-glass window installed by Erin's grandfather (which can be opened using a quirky pulley system Erin kept in place).

CABINETRY, SINK, FAUCET, STOOLS, SHELF, PENDANT LIGHTS, IKEA; **BACKSPLASH TILES,** Olympia Tile + Stone.

LEFT Fireplaces are central to Canadian cottages because they extend their use into winter. The former stone fireplace wasn't up to code, so Erin had it replaced with a cast-iron stove (the smallest that she could find for the petite place) and selected large, square concrete-look porcelain tiles for the wall behind it.

Morsø **STOVE,** Fires Alive; **WALL & FLOOR TILES,** Olympia Tile + Stone.

FAR LEFT Justin lounges inside.

BELOW Because they lost a bedroom in the reno, Erin incorporated a pullout sofa in the living area for an extra place to sleep on crowded weekends. With the original dropped ceiling removed, the peaked ceiling and beams are exposed to stunning effect. "It lends the illusion of space, even though the square footage is really minimal," says Erin. "It also helps to circulate air."

SOFA, wicker **ARMCHAIRS, RUG, LUMBAR CUSHIONS,** IKEA.

cool to see them play with the kids of my friends growing up," she says.

Alexis took up the cottage's cause and turned to Erin – makeover maven and decorating diva – to bring it into fashion. Under the sisters, the rustic ("even ramshackle," says Erin with a laugh) cottage saw its rebirth from dark and dank into a gleaming white post-and-plank place bathed in light. With Erin on speed-dial, Hugues added insulation and tongue-and-groove siding to the thin wooden walls, replaced some of the windows and helped convert one of the three bedrooms into a spacious bathroom. But the kitchen saw the most dramatic update, with its window enlarged, a big island installed and high-gloss white elements added throughout, such as IKEA cabinetry and a subway-tiled backsplash that stretches all the way to the ceiling on one wall.

The decor itself was pared back to the basics. "We got rid of the superfluous stuff and kept the items that mean the most, then we painted everything white," says Erin. The sisters also placed particular importance on honouring the original quirks introduced by their grandpa: the mismatched window casings, the doors he made from scratch and the seams in the hardwood floors that reveal the old layout. "To me, this is the ultimate of what a cottage should be," says Erin. "You can tell there's something special here, even if you can't name it."

"It" is certainly the style, but also the storied history that seeps through every nook and cranny. It's where Erin's Ontario-based family reconnects with Alexis's Montreal-based one – memories continue to be made here. And next door? The descendants of Erin's grandfather's best friend are there, doing the very same. Because, after all, that's the magic of cottage life: continuity and togetherness.

"TO ME, THIS IS THE ULTIMATE OF WHAT A COTTAGE SHOULD BE."

Alexis and Erin opted to sacrifice a bedroom for a full bathroom. The sisters saved money by transforming bed sheets into drapery and using a clawfoot tub from Erin's old house. It's difficult to envision that Erin, Alexis and their sister, Lindsay, slept in bunk beds in this small space well into their 20s!

Style at Home Collection **TOWELS,** Sears.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

Brown Sugar **Mojito**

in mint condition

Pick, crush, inhale and say mmm – this refreshing herb stirs all the senses.

RECIPES & FOOD STYLING CLAIRE STUBBS
PHOTOGRAPHY EDWARD POND
PROP STYLING LARA MCGRAW

BROWN SUGAR MOJITO

MAKES 1 DRINK

- 12 fresh mint leaves, torn + 1 sprig for garnish
- 1 tbsp freshly squeezed lime juice
- ½ oz Brown Sugar Simple Syrup (recipe follows)
- Crushed ice
- 1½ oz white rum
- ½ cup chilled club soda
- 2 dashes Angostura bitters, optional

Add the mint leaves, lime juice and simple syrup to a cocktail shaker or Mason jar. Use a muddler or wooden spoon to mash the mint leaves and thoroughly combine the ingredients. Fill the shaker half full with crushed ice and add the rum. Cover the shaker with the lid and shake until all the ingredients are well blended and chilled, about 20 seconds. Strain the mixture into a tall glass filled with ice. Top up the glass with the club soda and stir to blend. Garnish with the fresh mint sprig and the Angostura bitters, if using.

Brown Sugar Simple Syrup

- 1 cup golden brown sugar
- 1 cup water

In a saucepan over medium-high heat, bring the sugar and water to a boil; simmer, stirring, until the sugar is dissolved, about 2 minutes; remove from the heat and let cool. Store the syrup in an airtight container in the refrigerator for up to 1 month.

BRUSCHETTA WITH SMASHED PEAS, MINT & PARMESAN

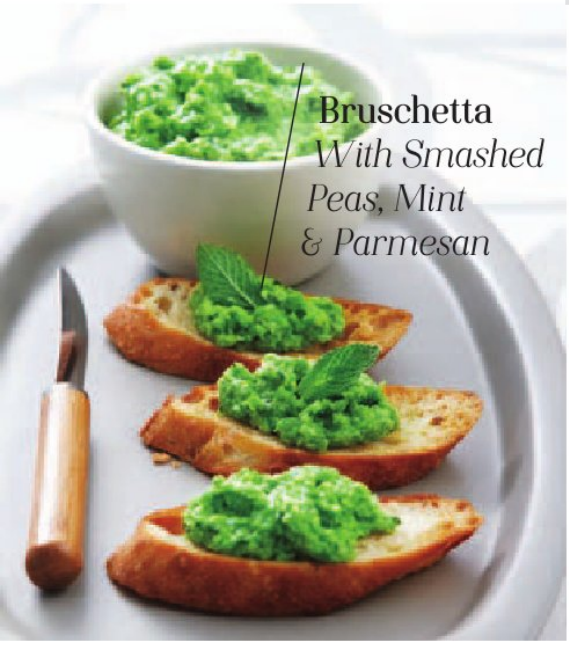
MAKES 16 PIECES

- ½ baguette, cut diagonally into sixteen ¼"-thick slices
- 3 tbsp olive oil, divided
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
- ¼ cup finely chopped sweet onion
- 1¼ cups blanched refreshed peas
- ¼ cup finely grated Parmesan
- 10 fresh mint leaves + more for garnish
- 2 tsp freshly squeezed lemon juice
- ½ cup pea shoots for garnish (optional)

Preheat the oven to 400°F. On a rimmed baking sheet, arrange the bread slices in a single layer. Brush one side of each slice with 1 tablespoon of the olive oil and season with salt and pepper. Toast the bread in the oven until the slices are golden brown, about 10 minutes; set aside.

Meanwhile, in a small skillet set over medium heat, add the remaining 2 tablespoons olive oil and the onion. Cook, stirring often, until the onion is soft and translucent, about 4 minutes. Transfer the onion to a food processor; add the peas, Parmesan, mint leaves and lemon juice and process until well blended but still chunky. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Top each toast with 1 tablespoon of the pea mixture, a few pea shoots and an extra mint leaf. Serve.

Lamb Burgers *With Feta & Sweet Mint Sambal*



Bruschetta *With Smashed Peas, Mint & Parmesan*

LAMB BURGERS WITH FETA & SWEET MINT SAMBAL

MAKES 4 BURGERS

Sweet Mint Sambal

- ½ cup thick Greek-style yogurt
- 2 tbsp Asian sweet chili sauce
- 2 tbsp chopped fresh mint leaves
- 1 tsp freshly grated lemon zest
- 1 tsp freshly squeezed lemon juice

Lamb Burgers

- 1 lb coarsely ground minced lamb
- ⅓ cup crumbled feta cheese + extra for garnish
- ¼ cup toasted pine nuts
- 2 tbsp chopped fresh mint leaves + more for garnish
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 tsp Dijon mustard
- ½ tsp ground coriander
- Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
- 4 naan breads
- ½ cup radish matchsticks
- ½ cup cucumber matchsticks

Stir together the sambal ingredients. Season with salt and pepper and refrigerate until ready to use.

To make the burgers, mix the lamb through pepper together in a large bowl. Using wet hands, divide the mixture into 4 portions and form each into a long oval sausage shape. Flatten slightly and chill for 30 minutes in the refrigerator.

Heat the barbecue to medium-high. Brush the burgers with a little olive oil and grill until cooked through, about 6 minutes per side. Warm the naan on the grill and serve the burgers on the naan topped with the sambal, radish, cucumber, extra feta and mint leaves.

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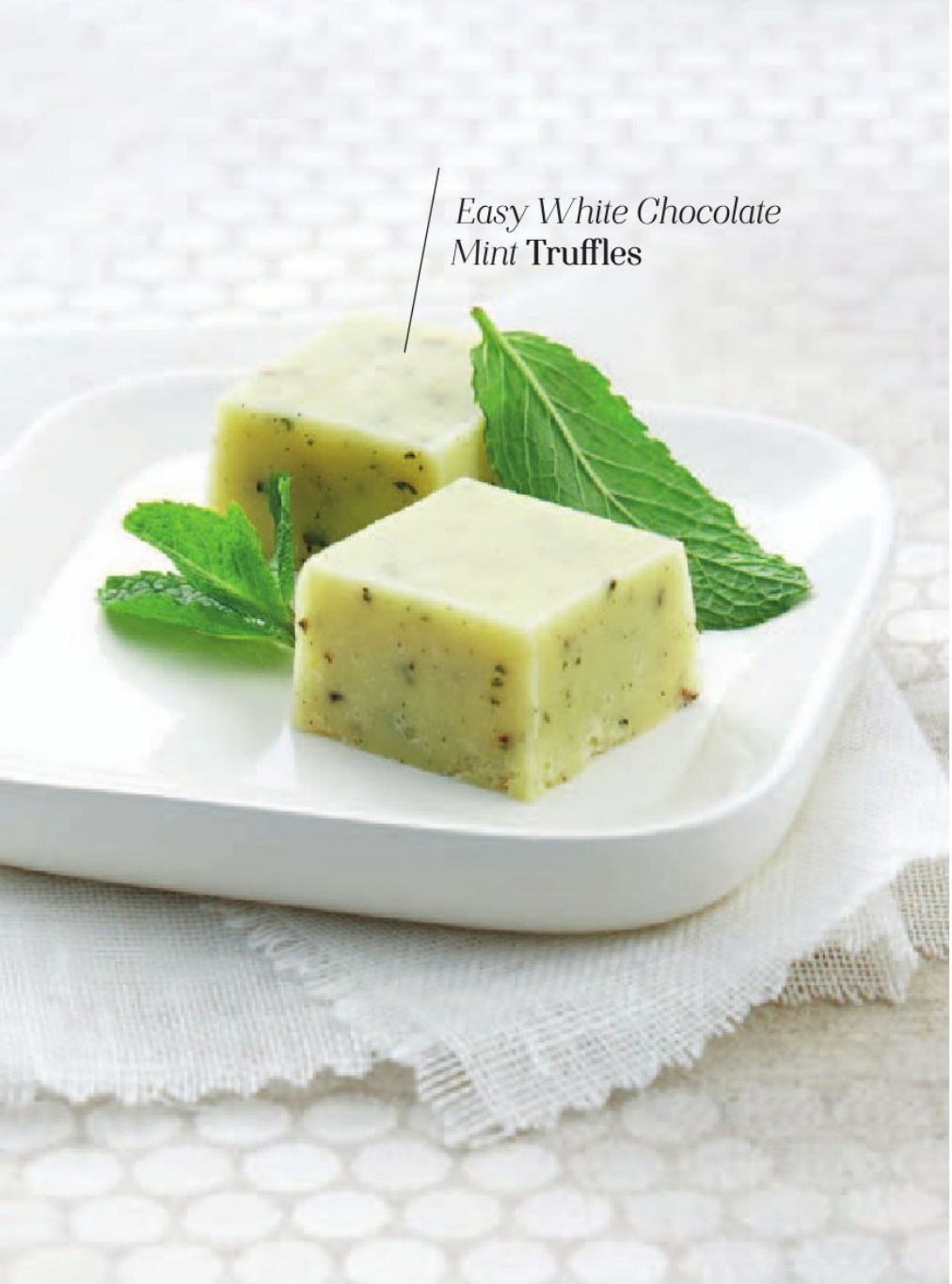

Easy White Chocolate Mint Truffles

EASY WHITE CHOCOLATE MINT TRUFFLES

MAKES 16 TRUFFLES

- 1 vanilla bean
- ⅓ cup 35% cream
- ½ cup fresh whole mint leaves
- 1 lb best-quality white chocolate
- 2 oz unsalted butter, chopped
- 1 tbsp finely chopped fresh mint leaves

Line the base and sides of an 8" square baking pan with parchment paper; set aside. Split the vanilla bean in half lengthwise and scrape out the seeds. Add the seeds and the pod to a small saucepan along with the cream and the whole mint leaves. Heat the mixture over medium heat for 1 minute. Remove from the heat and let stand to infuse for 15 minutes. Strain into a small bowl, pressing the mint leaves and vanilla seeds against the sieve to extract the most flavour.

Chop the chocolate into small, even pieces using a large serrated knife. Place the chocolate, infused cream and butter in a heavy saucepan over low heat. Stir the mixture frequently to melt the chocolate and incorporate the butter and cream. When the mixture is smooth and creamy, remove from the heat and stir in the chopped mint leaves. Pour into the baking pan and refrigerate until set, about 2 hours. Remove from the pan and cut into small squares to serve.

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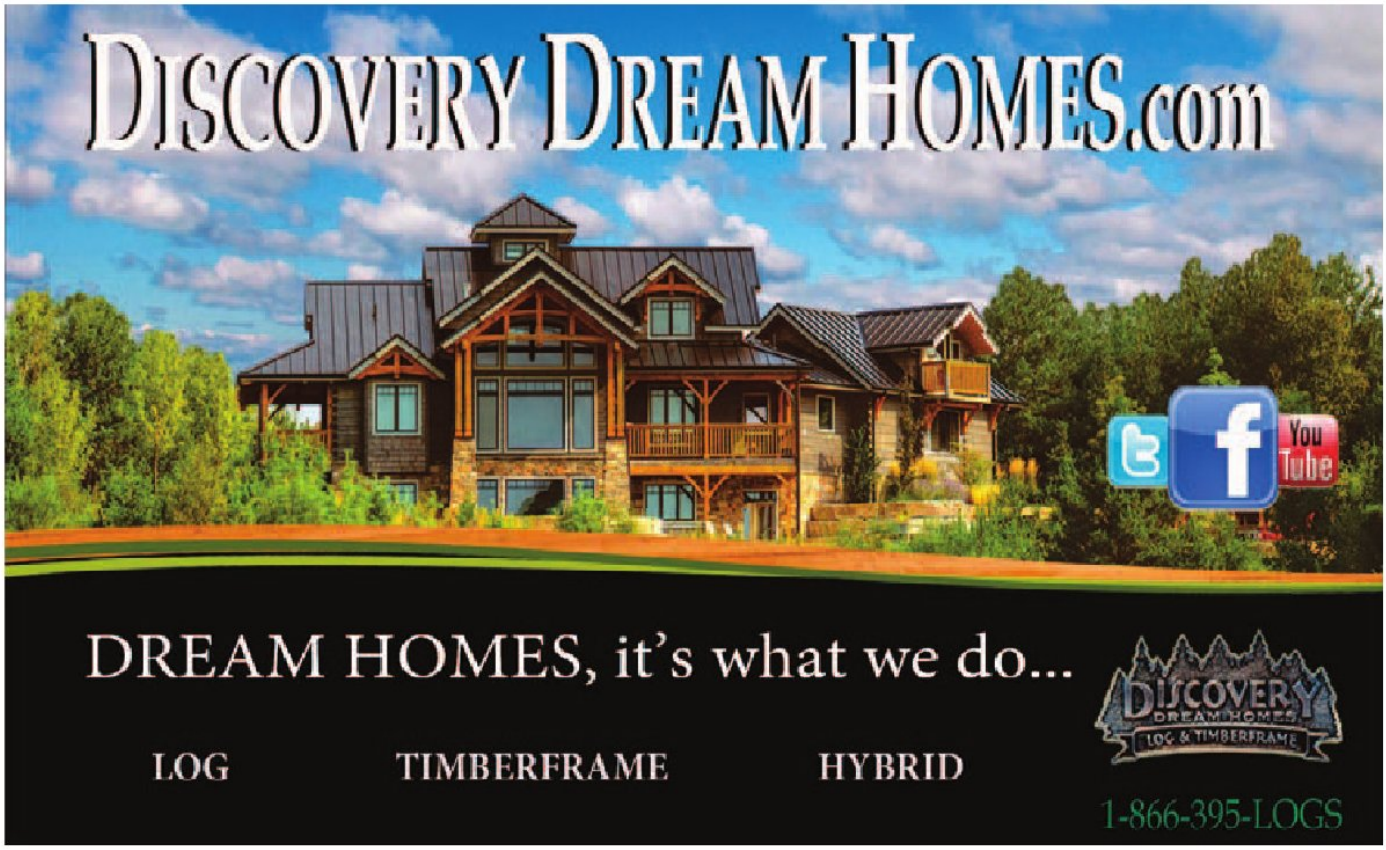
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THE AUGUST ISSUE
COTTAGE STYLE
LACOSTE
ON SALE JULY 6

351 ♥ 35

An all-white kitchen goes glam with a herringbone-patterned backsplash inlay and polished pulls.

PHOTOGRAPHY TRACEY AYTON

23 ♥ 2

Despite its neutral palette, this tablescape stands out thanks to a mix of delicate shapes and textures.

PHOTOGRAPHY DONNA GRIFFITH

1,077 ♥ 110

Hits of bright blue transform this white-on-white bedroom into a nautical seaside escape.

PHOTOGRAPHY ROBIN STUBBERT

design pinspiration

We round up our favourite bright white images from our Pinterest boards for extra inspiration.

17 ♥ 4

A high-gloss floating console combined with black and gold accents makes this hallway airy and inviting.

PHOTOGRAPHY ASHLEY CAPP

164 ♥ 33

Sometimes the most relaxing retreats involve nothing more than a well-dressed window seat.

PHOTOGRAPHY MICHAEL GRAYDON

1,723 ♥ 129

Natural light flows freely in this abundantly white entryway, while the dark wood floors add contrast.

PHOTOGRAPHY ROBIN STUBBERT

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